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WHY PLANT MONITORING IS KEY TO PEST CONTROL

SA'S 'DROUGHT' IN JANUARY 2023 EXPLAINED

PULSES: AN UNDERESTIMATED CROP THAT CAN IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

SOUTH KOREA

EXPLORING TRADE AND AGRI OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA

HISTORY OF RURAL SA

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE BUILDER WHO LEFT A LEGACY IN SA

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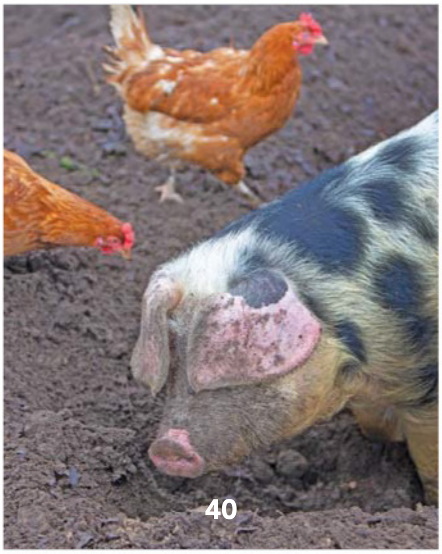

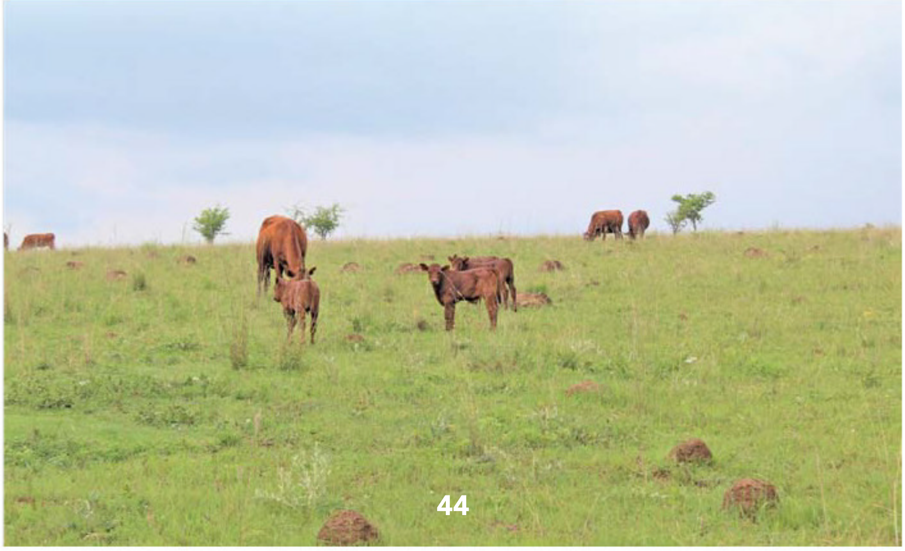

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Is lab-grown meat a good investment?

Food-tech media company UKTN recently published an article on the apparent rise in investors' appetites for UK lab-grown meat in the UK.

According to the article, investment in the UK's cultivated-meat sector skyrocketed by 400% in 2022. This data was released by the Good Food Institute, which found that between 2021 and 2022, investment in the lab-grown meat sector in the UK rose from £12 million (about R260 million)to £59 million (R1,3 billion), as reported by UKTN. This helped Britain secure the top spot in Europe for 'sustainable protein funding'. However, despite the rise in investment in lab-grown meat, regulations are supposedly stifling further growth into investment in this industry.

I am not an economist or investor by any stretch of the imagination, but investing in lab-grown meat seems like a poor investment. If we look at data from around the world, meat consumption is actually increasing, despite thee anti-livestock-farming rhetoric. This suggests that the anti-livestock-farming proponent (whether for ethical or climate-related reasons), which largely drives the lab-grown meat narrative, is perhaps much smaller than previously thought. Considering the high cost involved in the cultivation of meat in a laboratory, as well as the current high-cost-of-living crisis experienced around the world, it seems unlikely that lab-grown meat will be actively competing against farmed livestock in the near future.

The cost of producing lab-grown meat remains very high, despite global investment in the industry reaching over US$1 billion (R18 billion) in 2020 alone. According to Jesse Klein, senior editor at the GreenBiz Group, the lowest price calculated for lab-grown meat was between US$17 and US$23/lb (between R140 and R190/kg). With grocery store markups, this could reach US$40/lb (R330/kg). "In December, even with the current high rate of inflation, a pound of ground beef was a little under US$5 (R41/kg)," Klein said.

She went on to say that prices had come down for various components needed for the production of lab-grown meat, such as foetal bovine serum, but that this merely raised another problem: producing to scale. Farmers know this phrase all too well, and it is equally important for producers of lab-grown meat, according to Klein. A business producing lab-grown meat will not be successful if it cannot produce the millions of pounds needed to meet demand at an affordable level. Currently, there is not enough of these product components available on the market, making large-scale production almost impossible. Capacity for the fermentation process inherent in lab-cultivated meat is another problem that is not easily solved. This problem is further exacerbated by biological processes: too many cells in a bioreactor, for example, inevitably leads to cell death.

Another problem for the lab-grown meat narrative is that many people are simply put off by the idea of eating 'unnatural' food. Some consumers are also concerned about the long-term impact of eating such meat, and whether there may be health repercussions in the future. Considering all of this, I firmly believe that lab-grown meat is a passing phase. Of course, I might be wrong. But I know that I would always choose ethically produced meat over that grown in a laboratory. **FW**

Janine Ryan, Editor

farmer's weekly

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Pulses: an important part of the food system

Dr Nadia Radzman, a research associate in plant biology at the University of Cambridge in the UK, speaks about nutrient-packed pulses and the vital role they play in food security.

Each year on 10 February, the UN commemorates what probably sounds to many like a strange occasion: World Pulses Day.

However, as a researcher focused on forgotten and underutilised legumes, I think the initiative is an important step towards food security. Getting people to eat more pulses can ultimately help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

For clarification, 'legumes' and 'pulses' have different meanings. Legumes are all the plants that belong to the Leguminosae or Fabaceae family, while pulses are the dried seeds of legume plants. The latter include beans, chickpeas and lentils.

One reason that legume plants offer such promise in ending hunger is that they don't need good soil or nitrogen fertiliser to grow.

Plants need nitrogen to build important molecules such as protein and DNA, but most legumes can thrive in poor soil by fixing nitrogen from the air for their own use.

This happens through the symbiotic interaction with friendly bacteria known as rhizobia, which are housed inside structures called nodules

The views expressed in our weekly opinion piece do not necessarily reflect those of *Farmer's Weekly*.

This is an edited version of an article first published by The Conversation. To read the original article, visit bit.ly/3lA7c9y.

FOOD SECURITY
PULSES
©DR·JACK FWB230303

on the plant's roots. But that's not the only interesting thing about legumes and pulses.

In honour of World Pulses Day 2023, I would like to highlight five pulses that have unique properties and stories.

1. THE AFRICAN YAM BEAN

The African yam bean (*Sphenostylis stenocarpa*) offers two types of food: beans and underground tubers. The tubers have a higher protein content than any non-legume tuber crop, such as potato and cassava, and the beans are also high in protein.

Their nutritional value was proved during the Nigerian Civil War (1967–70), when the beans were cooked with amaranthus, telfairia or cassava leaves to feed the malnourished in war-affected areas.

This crop is native to Africa and was once grown across the continent.

Researchers have proposed that it may have been domesticated multiple times in West and Central Africa.

Today, it is mostly grown as a security or subsistence crop, rather than commercially. However, its high protein content and drought tolerance are attracting increasing interest.

> ***LEGUMES COULD HELP TO END HUNGER, AS THEY DON'T NEED GOOD SOIL AND NITROGEN FERTILISER TO GROW***

2. THE COMMON BEAN

The common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) comes in many varieties around the world. Examples are black beans, red kidney beans and pinto beans; they look different, but are the same species.

What's special about them is that they can pair with a larger number of rhizobial species than other legumes can. This may have helped the common bean to thrive outside of its native land and diversify in various habitats around the world. It is also able to fix nitrogen in different environments, making it a resilient species of legume.

3. THE PEA

The pea (*Pisum sativum*) is among the oldest domesticated crops in the world. It contributed to the understanding of genetics, thanks to Gregor Mendel's famous experiment with pea plants.

Mendel observed the way that different physical properties of the pea plants were inherited: pod shape, seed shape, seed colour, colour of unripe pod, flower colour, stem length, and flower placement. He crossed two pea plants that had different properties and observed the seven traits in the subsequent generations for two years.

From this experiment, he established Mendel's Laws of Inheritance, which are still applicable in the modern-day study of genetics.

The rich genetic diversity of the pea is also a valuable resource for important crop traits that can withstand various weather conditions due to climate change.

4. THE CHICKPEA

Many pulses are drought-tolerant and use less water for production than animal-sourced proteins, especially beef. The chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) is known to be highly drought-tolerant. This crop is mostly grown under dryland conditions in arid and semi-arid areas.

This special ability to grow where water is scarce is more prominent in wild species of chickpea. Wild chickpeas can also tolerate temperatures of up to 40°C, which is another valuable genetic resource for better drought-tolerance in modern chickpeas.

Still, chickpea yield is highly compromised when there is lack of water. Therefore, scientists are looking for beneficial traits that can reduce the yield loss in chickpeas during drought. This may contribute to a more secure food source in the midst of climate change.

5. THE LUPINS

White lupin (*Lupinus albus*), yellow lupin (*L. luteus*) and pearl lupin (*L. mutabilis*) can form special roots to get more nutrients without the need for additional fertilisers.

Plants need not only nitrogen, but phosphorus too. Usually they are given to plants in fertiliser to increase crop yield. Phosphate fertiliser is made from phosphate rock, a non-renewable resource that is being depleted rapidly through agricultural use.

White, yellow, and pearl lupins have unique root modifications called cluster roots that can liberate phosphorus from soil particles. These roots look like bottlebrushes and are formed only when the level of phosphorus in the soil is low. They exude a negatively charged compound called carboxylate that can liberate phosphorus from soil and make it available for the plant to use.

Thus, lupins don't have to rely on phosphate fertilisers and can even help neighbouring plants by increasing the phosphorus level in the soil.

FOOD SECURITY

Pulses deserve our attention not just on 10 February, but every day. The five pulses I've presented here can serve as sustainable sources of protein and make food systems more diverse. They can contribute greatly to better food security in the future.

AFRICA AGRI-TECH/VIA FACEBOOK

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Africa Regional Apimondia (bee) Symposium, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, Durban. Visit apimondiaafrica2023.org.za.

24 TO 26 MARCH
Cannabis Expo, GrandWest, Cape Town. Visit thecannabisexpo.co.za.

30 TO 31 MARCH
Smart Farming: Transforming Agriculture for Sustainable Food Security in Africa, Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! Pretoria Menlyn. Phone Edna Lupiya on 011 862 4001.

3 TO 5 MAY
Africa International Sustainable Agriculture production, Biotechnology and Engineering Conference, Cape Town Convention Centre. Email at charity@federatedmi.co.za.

COURSES AND TRAINING

27 FEBRUARY TO 3 MARCH
Cattle Beef Farming Management and Production, George. Email Rothman Livestock and Training Services at office@RLTSafrica.com.

28 FEBRUARY TO 18 APRIL
Fundamentals of Maize Production (online). Phone Agricolleges International on 063 940 0334, or email info@agricolleges.com.

6 TO 9 MARCH
Sheep and Goats Pregnancy Awareness, Gauteng. Email Rothman Livestock and Training Services at office@RLTSafrica.com.

15 TO 17 MARCH
Floral Intensive Workshop, Ganico Organic Estate, Johannesburg. Email Wilde Flower at hello@wildeflower.co.za.

22 MARCH TO 19 MAY
Poultry Production, Delmas. Apply online at learn.buhle.org.za/learn, or visit buhle.org.za.

25 TO 26 MARCH
Understanding Aquaponics, Cape Town. Phone Asa Casa on 083 658 0345, or email Philip Austin at philip@asa.casa.

29 TO 31 MARCH
Water Quality Management and Risk Assessment Workshop, Radisson Blu Hotel, Sandton. Email info@mathema.co.za.

16 TO 28 APRIL
Academy Pasture, Grazing, Agronomy and Feed Production Module, George. Email Rothman Livestock and Training Services at office@RLTSafrica.com.

19 APRIL
Profitable Boer Goat Production, Potchefstroom. Email Johan Steyn at info@boergoats.co.za, or visit boergoats.co.za.

1 TO 5 MAY
Pigs: Reproduction, Artificial Insemination and Ultrasound Basics, George. Email Rothman Livestock and Training Services at office@RLTSafrica.com.

SHOWS

27 APRIL TO 6 MAY
Bloem Show, Bloemfontein Showgrounds. Visit bloemshow.co.za.

IMPORTANT DATES

14 TO 16 MARCH
CGA Citrus Summit, Boardwalk Hotel, Gqeberha. Visit cga.co.za.

16 TO 19 MAY
Nampo Harvest Day, Nampo Park, Bothaville. Visit grainsa.co.za/pages/nampo/nampo-home.

26 MAY TO 4 JUNE
Royal Show, Pietermaritzburg. Visit royalshow.co.za.

26 JUNE TO 1 JULY
National Boerperd Championship, Afridome, Parys. Email Elize Prinsloo at elize@studbook.co.za.

Entries should be submitted at least one month in advance. Email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za to place an entry. Please note that, due to limited space, publication of an event cannot be guaranteed. All entries are published at the editor's discretion.

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GETTY IMAGES

Small-scale farmers in South Agrica on the road to success, thanks to agricultural certification programme

In early February, eight small-scale farmers in North West received the stamp of approval after completing the South African Good Agricultural Practice (SA-GAP) programme.

The main objective of the programme is to assist smallholder producers to access both local and international markets by producing good-quality products that comply with food-safety and quality standards as required by the market.

During the 12-month training programme, these and other smallholder producers were empowered with knowledge of efficient farm-management practices; trained on complying with food-safety legislation, environmental protection, and animal and worker welfare; and assisted in mobilising the financial means for realising the necessary infrastructural and other related investments in the agricultural value chain.

The certification programme ensures health and safety for consumers and helps producers to gain gradual recognition and acceptance from mainstream commercial markets.

Kelebogile Matsose makes her product, Feel Good Tea, from chia plants that she grows on her family farm in Makwassie, North West. SUPPLIED

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

In order for a producer to be considered for participation in the programme, the following basic criteria must be met:

- He or she must understand the requirements for and advantages of being certified;
- They must be fully committed to participating in the programme;
- They must be willing to implement the recommendations from the auditors; and
- They must be in production and utilising the available production facilities to the best of their abilities, if the produce produced is out of season.

In addition, the producer must be willing to continue with production in the new production season, have access to irrigation water, land and other basic production infrastructure, and have production infrastructure that is in reasonably good condition. The programme is not designed for dilapidated business entities.

> **THE PROGRAMME ENSURES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CONSUMERS AND HELPS PRODUCERS GAIN RECOGNITION**

PASSION AND DEDICATION

One of the beneficiaries of this programme is 30-year-old Kelebogile Matsose (*see page 21*), who lives in the small farming town of Makwassie near Wolmaransstad. While she and her family farm livestock, maize, sunflower and various vegetables, her priority is the production of chia seeds and tea made from chia plants.

It was because of her passion for and dedication to her craft that Matsose was chosen to participate in the SA-GAP programme in 2022.

She explains that her dream is to see herself with a tea-production plant, dominating the local agriculture sector with her organic tea and supplying the international market.

And since South Africa has such a high unemployment rate, Matsose says she is working hard to expand her enterprise in order to be able to hire more people in the next five years.

For more in-depth information about Matsose, turn to page 21.

– North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Send your letters to: farmersweekly@caxton.co.za, or Farmer's Weekly, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123, SA. The views and opinions expressed on the letters page do not necessarily reflect those of Farmer's Weekly or Caxton. Readers' letters will be published and edited at the sole discretion of Farmer's Weekly.

MOST POPULAR ON FARMERSWEEKLY.CO.ZA

CASSAVA: AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Light Ngobeni and Zinhle Nkosi, agricultural economists and master's students at the University of Pretoria and University of Limpopo respectively, write about the importance of cassava production for farmers and consumers in South Africa, and how the value chain can be developed.

Read the full article at bit.ly/3lGfKfd, or scan here:
Posted: 9 February 2023.

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FROM FACEBOOK

@FarmersWeeklySA
We posted about President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement during his State of the Nation Address 2023 that government aimed to issue another 250 000 PESI vouchers to small-scale farmers this year. Some of our followers shared their thoughts on this news.
Posted: 10 February 2023.

READERS' COMMENTS

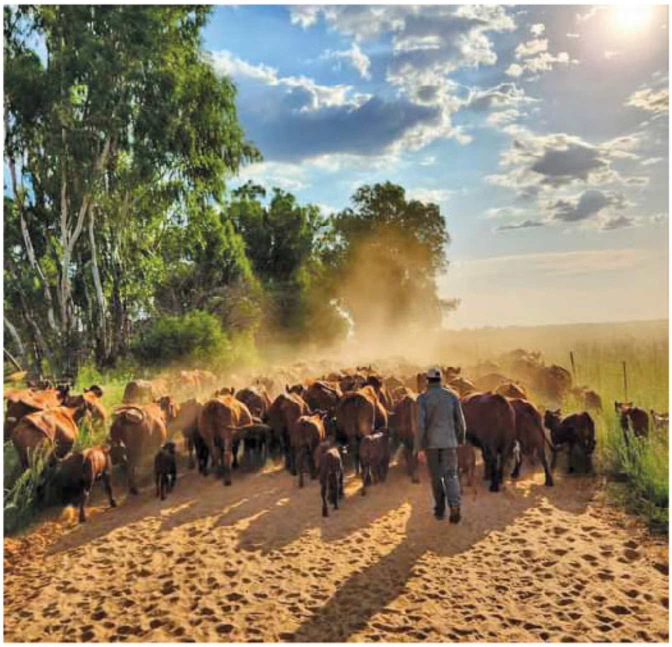
Neo Leburu: "If only the vouchers *were* being allocated to farmers."

Bruce Mabizela: "Whether you are a small-scale commercial farmer or a subsistence farmer, I am of the sincere view that this PESI support grant motivates people to be responsible citizens who work their land, no matter how small that piece of land may be. This intervention inspires crop and stock productivity, as the nation is sternly engaged in a battle against hunger, poverty and unemployment. At a time when hikes in inflation and the prices of staple foods are rampant, this noble sentiment should be sincerely honoured."

Want your photo to be featured as our 'Photo of the Week'? Tag @FarmersWeeklySA on Twitter or Instagram to be considered!

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Thabang The Farmer. RSA.
THABANG TLADINYANE @Bennet0305
"Lord, I appreciate you and every single day of my life."
Via Twitter. Posted: 11 February 2023.



AGRI NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MAJOR FARM HERBICIDE TO BE WITHDRAWN IN FRANCE TO PROTECT GROUNDWATER

A major herbicide used in French farming is set to be banned by health authorities after it was found to have links to pollution of the groundwater table in that country.
– connexionfrance.com

SHORTAGE OF EGGS SET TO CONTINUE IN THE UK

Egg shortages are set to leave retailers with a supply issue over the next few months. This comes amid a general scaling back in the UK industry, as well as fears that supermarkets may turn to imports.
– poultryworld.net

SPREAD OF BIRD FLU COULD LEAD TO NON-STOP 'WAR' ON POULTRY

Bird flu has reached new corners of the globe and become endemic in some wild birds that transmit the virus to poultry. This was according to veterinarians and disease experts, who warned that the disease was now a year-round problem.
– reuters.com

37 YEARS AGO

1911 — 3 January 1986 — 2023

*The zebra cobra (*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*) spits and bites, and is common in northern Namibia and the southern coastal area of Angola.* FW ARCHIVE

Don't forget your snakebite kit: Part 2

In this second article, we continued our series on snakebites with the dos and don'ts of treating bites.

After serious bites by cobras and mambas, giving antivenom is not the sole method of treatment, or even the most important.

Several confirmed envenomations have been saved merely by ensuring adequate oxygen gets to the lungs by efficient mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. However, giving antivenom also aids recovery.

*The black mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) is the exception, and because of the large quantity of venom usually injected, the first symptoms appear within 15 to 30 minutes.*

EXPERT MEDICAL ATTENTION

Dr Neil Goodwin, head of the intensive care unit at Addington Hospital in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, says expert medical attention must be sought without delay after all mamba bites.

The spitting cobras and all adders secrete cytotoxic venoms that damage tissue and blood vessels in the bitten area. Death from fluid loss can occur days later, and often limbs of survivors have to be amputated after incorrect procedures are used.

"A tourniquet must never be used with these bites because it confines the venom to a small part of the body, resulting in much local damage and possible amputation of the limb," says Goodwin.

Treatment advocated is to bind firmly the bitten limb above the bite area with a crepe bandage, and rest the limb as much as possible until medical help is available.

This allows the venom to slowly dissipate and dilute in the body, lessening the damage to the limb.

"Under no circumstances should you cut the bite and, if administering antivenom, do not inject it at the bite site. Evidence shows that this increases the damage to the limb involved," he warns.

Goodwin says the antivenom should be injected intravenously, but concedes that few lay people are competent in this procedure. "In this case, inject into a large muscle, such as the buttocks. I'm sure most farmers won't find this difficult."

Injecting the antivenom just under the skin has very little effect. Goodwin is unconvinced that suction devices for removing venom are effective.

FLUID INTAKE

Since dehydration is a major factor in bites from these species, Goodwin recommends the intake of fluids, but only if the victim can accept them.

*The bite of the berg adder (*Bitis atropos*), although painful with rapid local swelling and some mild paralysis, particularly of the eye muscles, is not lethal. Antivenom has no effect and should* not *be used.*

*Venom from the boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*) and vine snake (*Ahaetulla nasuta*) is haemotoxic, causing a disorder of the coagulating qualities of the blood, which takes several days to develop.*

These snakes aren't aggressive, and are more common in certain forest and bush areas of South Africa.

Polyvalent antivenom is useless against these species. A special serum, available to doctors and hospitals only, is available from [what is today known as] *the National Health Laboratory Service. Since the venom is slow acting, there is always ample time to get the serum and begin treatment.*

Aside from ensuring that the antivenom is not out of date, the next most important precaution the farmer can take is to make sure he or she and their workers have been inoculated against tetanus, having a booster every five years, and that they are proficient in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"These are important. All snakebites can cause tetanus and everyone should at least know the basics of the 'kiss of life', especially farmers." **FW**

This article first appeared in the 3 January 1986 issue of *Farmer's Weekly* and has been edited to adhere to the current style of the magazine.

Mixed production outlook for SA wine and maize in 2023

AGRIBUSINESS PERSPECTIVE by **Wandile Sihlobo**

The food security risk from severe rolling blackouts is evident across South Africa's agriculture sector and the broader food, fibre and beverage value chains.

Apart from the challenges presented by the power crisis, the latest harvest news for wine grapes and maize paints a mixed outlook for these two subsectors. In this article, I explore the production conditions in these subsectors, and the outlook for the respective harvests.

WINE

South Africa's wine grape output for this year is projected to be lower than the 2022 harvest because of unfavourable weather conditions earlier in the season. South African Wine Industry Statistics will release its production estimates later in February, but has already indicated the prospect of lower wine grape yields.

This in turn means that wine production could be lower than 2022 levels, with preliminary estimates pointing to an output of approximately 800 million litres. This will add pressure to an industry still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which bans on the sale of alcohol had a severely negative financial impact.

Importantly, this industry is highly labour-intensive. Therefore any additional financial strain in an already low-profit environment could negatively influence employment conditions, particularly for seasonal labourers.

One effective response to assist the wine industry, particularly during this challenging year, would be for National Treasury to review the excise tax burden for wine. This currently stands at 11%, significantly above other emerging markets' duties on wine.

MAIZE

In this subsector, the near-term outlook is somewhat better. The season started with excessive rainfall, which slowed planting in some regions by about a month. But the resulting high soil moisture levels ultimately proved beneficial, assisting the crop when these regions were confronted by a heatwave in early February.

This was the case across about 80% of dryland maize production regions.

THE SECTOR IS ON SHAKY GROUND BECAUSE IT RELIES ON A CONSISTENT ENERGY SUPPLY

Preliminary production estimates from organisations such as the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) paint a positive picture for South Africa's maize crop, with the 2022/23 harvest forecast to reach 15,6 million tons, down only 3% on the previous season.

Importantly, this includes commercial and non-commercial maize. Of the estimated 15,6 million tons, the non-commercial portion is 600 000t (down from 667 000t in the previous season). This minor decline stems from a reduction in the area planted to the crop, and slightly lower yields.

It is worth noting, however, that we are still early on in the season, and these estimates could change. The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) holds a somewhat cautious view, estimating that the area planted to commercial maize is 2,5 million hectares, down by 4% from the USDA's area estimate for commercial maize.

To stress again, these are tentative figures, as the CEC had not released its revised area and first production estimates at the time of writing.

If the area planted remains unchanged at 2,5 million hectares, with an average yield of 5,6t/ha (lower than the USDA's yield estimate of 5,7t/ha), South Africa's 2022/23 commercial maize crop could be around 14 million tons.

This would be well below the CEC's estimate of the 2021/22 commercial maize harvest of 15,4 million tons (when the yield was 5,9t/ha). Nonetheless, it would be well above annual consumption of around 11,8 million tons, retaining South Africa's status as a net exporter of maize.

Such a harvest would still contribute towards the softening of maize prices seen in previous years.

The critical drivers of maize prices during the past season were global, and included drought in South America, rising demand in China, and the Russia-Ukraine war. With global grain prices having softened over the past few months, this trend is likely to filter into the South African market, although to a more limited extent than on the world market.

Both white and yellow maize spot prices and the July contract price are below R5 000/t.

These price levels benefit consumers as well as the poultry and livestock industries, which have faced higher feed costs over the past few years.

These industries face unique challenges from load-shedding and their associated costs, and any minor relief for feed prices would be a welcome development.

To re-emphasise, the agriculture sector and the food, fibre and beverages value chains remain on shaky ground because of their dependency on a consistent energy supply.

Government interventions to ease this burden are crucial, as there are serious food security risks.

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South Africa's energy crisis is a national state of disaster, but what does that mean for us?

POLICY PERSPECTIVE by **Theo Boshoff**

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during his 2023 State of the Nation Address in early February that the National Disaster Management Centre had classified the ongoing energy crisis in South Africa as a national state of disaster. A formal notice of this declaration followed that evening in the *Government Gazette*.

There can be little doubt that the pervasive rolling blackouts experienced so far this year have had and continue to have disastrous consequences for businesses in several sectors of the economy. However, will a formal declaration of disaster really make any difference? It may, but perhaps not in the way one might think.

As per the Disaster Management Act (No. 57 of 2002), a national disaster is a natural or human-caused occurrence that endangers life, property, infrastructure or the environment, and is of such a scale that it cannot be dealt with by a single province.

The declaration of a national state of disaster allows government to make resources available to assist provinces. It also allows the minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to publish regulations necessary to deal with the disaster.

This will be old news to anyone who lived through the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are considerable differences between the pandemic-related lockdown measures and the current situation.

During the pandemic, businesses were required to either close down or limit their operations to contain the spread of the virus. This situation was unique, hence measures that the authorities believed were necessary, but which were highly contested, were published in the *Government Gazette*. These regulations all lapsed when the COVID-19-related state of disaster was lifted, and there would be little justification to bring in similar rules for the energy crisis.

The argument has been made that agriculture should be declared an essential service under the new state of disaster, and should thus be exempted from rolling blackouts. There are, however, a number of challenges to this approach.

Since the COVID-19-related regulations lapsed, there is no longer any distinction between essential and non-essential services outside of labour law, where different grievance procedures apply to those who supply essential services, such as members of the South African Police Service, who may not go on strike.

> **DOES THE STATE OF DISASTER SERVE A PURPOSE? ONLY TIME WILL TELL**

All restrictions on companies' operations were also removed, so the concept of prioritising sectors no longer exists.

In terms of our limited electricity supply, the argument could be made that a similar system should be instated to prioritise those sectors that are essential to the economy.

There are problems, however, with ranking sectors by importance. Yes, the agriculture sector provides food, but others provide the income needed to purchase that food, so any ranking system is bound to be contested.

On a more technical level, it is unlikely that any sector would be treated differently from other users on the grid. When rolling blackouts take place, power can only be switched on or off at substation level. Many farmers share power lines with other businesses along the value chain, such as abattoirs, mills, crushing plants, and feed manufacturers, which are generally situated in small towns.

Thus, any special dispensation applied to them will have a positive effect on households and other businesses on the same grid. It is for this reason that households or businesses adjacent to hospitals don't experience rolling blackouts. The problem is there are significantly more agribusinesses and farmers in South Africa than there are hospitals.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Irrespective of the state of disaster, Agbiz believes the answer lies in negotiating alternative solutions.

As part of the agriculture-sector task team on energy, Agbiz has engaged with Eskom to determine whether rolling blackouts in those areas dominated by agricultural clients could be limited to stages two or three.

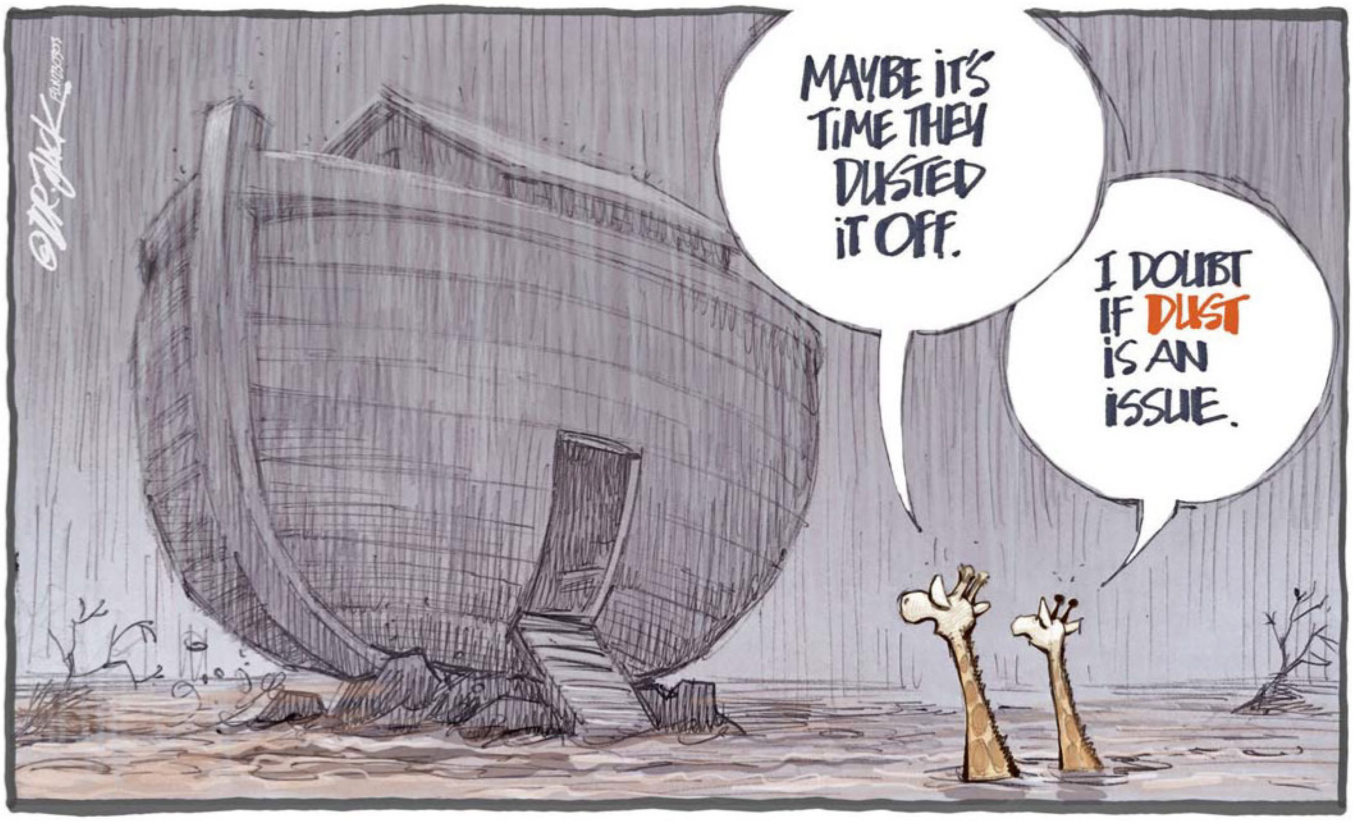
For this to happen, the powers that be need to clearly communicate the thresholds. How many users on a grid are required to agree to such plans before they can be implemented?

Likewise, if processors invest in their own infrastructure to isolate themselves, are they entitled to receive special dispensation? We need answers to these and other questions.

Is the state of disaster pointless, then? Not necessarily. If decision-making is centralised, perhaps we can get clear and timely answers to the questions outlined above.

Furthermore, a state of disaster could empower Eskom and government to procure the parts they need to fix the country's generation capacity at a much quicker pace. Only time will tell.

Theo Boshoff is the CEO of Agbiz, but writes in his personal capacity. Email him at theo@agbiz.co.za.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MAYBE IT'S TIME THEY DUSTED IT OFF.
I DOUBT IF DUST IS AN ISSUE.

Following heavy rainfall and flooding across several South African provinces, government declared a national state of disaster in the third week of February – *see story on page 17.*

'SOUTH AFRICA HAS BECOME A GRAVEYARD OF SMALL TOWNS'

– Executive director of the Southern African Agri Initiative, *Dr Theo de Jager*, speaking out about the farm-consolidation trend in South Africa that would ultimately lead to the decimation of smaller towns across the country *(pg 22).*

'The powers of this ministry [...] must be set out clearly to avoid a bureaucratic nightmare'

– Executive director of Agri SA, *Christo van der Rheede*, expressing reservations about the announcement of a new ministry of electricity *(pg 16).*

'Irresponsible statements that create incorrect perceptions could put food security in severe danger [...]'

– Chairperson of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation, *James Faber*, lamenting the unfounded assumptions of animal welfare organisations regarding the treatment of livestock in South Africa *(pg 20).*

'Consumers have no faith in farmers, and have a negative perception about what happens on farms'

– CEO of the South African Pork Producers' Organisation, *Johann Kotzé*, stressing the need for communication with consumers about improved pork production practices to be authentic and backed up by evidence *(pg 23).*

'You have to ask your sales consultant why there's such a big difference in prices'

– Grain SA chairperson, *Derek Mathews*, encouraging farmers to gather enough information to enable them to negotiate better prices for inputs *(pg 24).*

Parties react with concern to president's State of the Nation Address 2023

Although stakeholders in South Africa's agriculture sector welcomed some of the announcements made by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** in his recent State of the Nation Address, others expressed dismay over his declaration of a national state of disaster. **Glenneis Kriel** reports.

During his State of the Nation Address in early February, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster to deal with the country's energy crisis and announced that a new electricity minister would be appointed.

He said that declaring a state of disaster would enable government to accelerate energy projects and provide measures to alleviate the impact of rolling blackouts on businesses in the food production, storage and retail supply chain.

President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster during his recent State of the Nation Address. GCIS

Ramaphosa said he foresaw that these measures, along with the energy action plan, would result in a "massive increase in power to the grid over the next 12 to 18 months and beyond".

Reaction to Ramaphosa's address was mixed. Christo van der Rheede, executive director of Agri SA, welcomed the president's focus on the energy crisis, but questioned the necessity and value of the declaration of a national state of disaster to address the problem.

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde expressed disappointment that more detail on how Treasury would relax procurement regulations at all levels of government to facilitate the sourcing of energy-related products or services had not been spelt out.

Under normal circumstances, rigorous oversight was required to prevent corrupt activities from creeping into procurement processes.

Winde said he had also wanted to hear explicit details on the improvement and protection of the grid distribution network so that power producers could feed energy easily back onto the grid to households and businesses.

He was also looking for a commitment that provinces that took steps to reduce their electricity usage would be ring-fenced to receive a commensurate level of rolling blackouts.

Other stakeholders threatened to take legal action. DA leader John Steenhuisen said in a statement that the party had already briefed its lawyers on challenging Ramaphosa's announcement.

He said the country had been down this road before during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it had allowed the ANC "unfettered power to loot without any parliamentary oversight".

Dr Dirk Hermann, CEO of Solidarity, confirmed that the organisation's legal team had also started to prepare "urgent court documents that will be served on government in the coming days".

MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY

According to Van der Rheede, the announcement of a new minister of electricity required more detail.

"The powers of this ministry and its distinction from the ministries of Mineral Resources and Energy and Public Enterprises must be set out clearly to avoid a bureaucratic nightmare that hinders rather than accelerates the resolution to the energy crisis."

He said the agriculture sector needed to be declared an essential service under the state of disaster, adding that this would partially exempt segments of the sector dependent on electricity for irrigation, packing, processing and cold storage from rolling blackouts at a higher level than Stage 4.

STAKEHOLDERS PLAN TO TAKE GOVERNMENT TO COURT OVER THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER

In contrast, Theo Boshoff, CEO of Agbiz, welcomed Ramaphosa's emphasis on improved financial and administrative management in local government. He said that even before the advent of load-shedding, agricultural businesses had spent millions of rands each year on water and electricity provision as well as the repair of roads and other infrastructure due to shortfalls in municipal service delivery.

He added, however, that municipalities and officials who failed to carry out their work needed to face stronger consequences, and that "action should be taken earlier before everything fell apart in a region".

Agri SA welcomed the positive moves to address the capacity of South Africa's ports, and efforts to improve infrastructure such as railway lines, roads and rural bridges.

"It remains to be seen how quickly these projects will come on line. We'll work tirelessly on these critical interventions to ensure the protection of sustainable food production in South Africa," Van der Rheede said.

National disaster declared after widespread floods

Government declared a national state of disaster in the third week of February following heavy rainfall and flooding across the country.

Reggie Ngcobo, media liaison officer for the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (agriculture department), told *Farmer's Weekly* that the declaration would enable an intensive and coordinated response to the damage caused to roads, bridges and other infrastructure. He added that it could also allow affected farmers to apply for assistance via their provincial departments of agriculture.

"Government may assist farmers, regardless of the size of their farms, with support to fix broken infrastructure, such as fencing and roads, or with inputs to help them recover from crop losses.

"To ensure that the aid is used for farming purposes, it usually comes in the form of vouchers," he said.

Bennie van Zyl, general manager of TLU SA, said many farms in the summer rainfall area had suffered losses, ranging from crop losses to damage to pumps, irrigation infrastructure and fencing.

He added that government needed to fix roads and bridges urgently so that farmers could at least transport inputs and crops to and from their farms.

Dr Theo de Jager, executive director of the Southern African Agri Initiative and a producer in Tzaneen, Limpopo, said farmers there had suffered huge losses when the region received about 300mm of rain in just one day.

"We had a lot of rain last year, so the soil was saturated, which increased the risk of flooding," he said.

De Jager added that orchard and cash crop farmers would also struggle to get onto their lands to make timely spray applications. In some cases, producers were having to use drones to overcome this challenge.

According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS), widespread and heavy rainfall had started in the latter part of the second week of February and continued throughout that weekend. This had resulted in flooding across the country, with major rivers, especially those transiting the Kruger National Park and the Lowveld, being in full flood.

The escarpment and Lowveld regions of Limpopo and Mpumalanga in particular had borne the brunt of the flooding, with the lower half of the Kruger National Park severely affected.

In addition, another low-pressure system over southern Mozambique and northern KwaZulu-Natal had caused flooding along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline.

Government declared a national state of disaster in February in response to the floods affecting most of the country's provinces. SANPARKS/VIA TWITTER

According to the SAWS, Charters Creek in KwaZulu-Natal had received 242mm over the Saturday and Sunday of that weekend, while Tshivhase Tea Estate in Limpopo had received 294mm over that Friday and Saturday morning.

The agriculture department said in a statement that above-normal rainfall was expected to continue throughout the early part of this year until La Niña conditions, which usually had their strongest impact on rainfall in mid-summer, began to subside. – *Glenneis Kriel*

'Be on the lookout for Rift Valley fever'

Livestock producers should be on the alert for outbreaks of Rift Valley fever (RVF) following the good rainfall that occurred across South Africa recently. This was according to Dr Danie Odendaal, director of South Africa's Veterinarian Network.

He told *Farmer's Weekly* that while large-scale outbreaks of RVF were unlikely this year, even an isolated case could lead to large outbreaks next summer.

Experience had shown that outbreaks of RVF occurred sporadically after a good rainy season, Odendaal said.

"However, even one infected animal this season can create an opportunity for dramatic multiplication of mosquitoes, the vector of RVF, in the coming summer season.

"Normal practice is to vaccinate livestock against RVF before the advent of the rainy season. However, given the chronic shortage of vaccines in South Africa, it's difficult to determine the extent to which [RVF] vaccinations were carried out in 2022."

Odendaal called on livestock owners to report all suspected cases of RVF to a veterinarian as a matter of urgency.

He warned that the carcasses of animals believed to be infected with RVF should be handled with the utmost care, as RVF was a viral zoonotic disease that could only be confirmed via post-mortem examination.

"It's vital that cattle, sheep and goats are inoculated against the disease in good time. RVF can cause large-scale abortion storms that result in the loss of unborn animals. It's also extremely dangerous for young animals.

"Most human infections result from contact with the blood or organs of infected animals, although human infections have also resulted from the bites of infected mosquitoes," he said.

The RVF virus, a member of the *Phlebovirus* genus, occurred throughout Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It was first identified in 1931 among sheep on a farm in Kenya's Great Rift Valley.

The WHO stated that RVF had spread to Saudi Arabia and Yemen in September 2000, marking the first reported occurrences of the disease outside of Africa. – *Annelie Coleman*

Support needed as global hunger, poverty rise

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have called for urgent funding to alleviate growing global poverty and food insecurity.

In a joint report released in February, the two organisations urged governments and donors to support country-level efforts to address the needs in hotspots, share information, and strengthen crisis preparedness.

According to the WFP, 349 million people across 79 countries were acutely food insecure and the prevalence of undernourishment was also on the rise. This situation was expected to worsen, with global food supplies projected to drop to a three-year low in 2023.

The need was especially dire in 24 countries that the FAO and WFP identified as hunger hotspots, of which 16 were in Africa.

The affordability of fertiliser, as defined by the ratio between food prices and fertiliser prices, was also the lowest since the 2007/08 food crisis.

Regarding the international fertiliser scenario, Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz, previously told *Farmer's Weekly* that there had been a push from the World Trade Organization, the FAO, the International Monetary Fund and others for fertiliser exporters not to restrict export volumes.

URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED TO RESCUE 'HUNGER HOTSPOTS'

Fiscal space in the fertiliser market that could help farmers, especially smallholders, was also crucial, as they contributed significantly to household food security, he said.

The report by the WFP and FAO said: "G20 governments are urged to deploy all policy measures available to keep trade in fertilisers open so that supplies reach the countries most in need of them.

"To prevent a worsening of the food and nutrition security crisis, urgent action is required to rescue hunger hotspots, facilitate trade, improve the functioning of markets, and enhance the role of the private sector.

"The reform and repurposing of harmful subsidies, with careful targeting and efficiency, is also needed. Countries should balance short-term urgent interventions with longer-term resilience efforts as they respond to the crisis."

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs meanwhile reported lower than normal access to food in the southern and extreme northern parts of Zimbabwe, the southern parts of Malawi, Angola, Lesotho, and southern and northern Mozambique.

This was due to prolonged dry spells during the 2022 production season, conflict, and high prices. The situation was expected to last until the harvesting season starting in March. – *Annelie Coleman*

'Slowbalisation' could hinder SA trade

Non-tariff barriers and the trend towards eating local are reducing gains made by the globalisation movement and pose a risk for South Africa's export-orientated industries, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It warned in a recent statement against what it termed 'slowbalisation', which is the slowing down of the globalisation movement that increased trade between nations in previous years.

Instead, the IMF said the world was moving towards a slower pace of trade reform and weakening political support for open trade amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Dr John Purchase, an independent agribusiness consultant, noted that slowbalisation had taken hold during Donald Trump's presidency in the US, which resulted in a ripple effect of anti-globalisation sentiment.

"Too many factors play a role in globalisation, so it won't disappear completely, but it is slowing down. The EU is becoming more closed off and is driving a protectionist agenda that will see greater protection of its own members.

"South Africa has its own 'buy local' drive, but this will only work in industries where we can compete against the price of imports."

Purchase stressed the need for South Africa to renegotiate trade agreements that were more favourable to local producers.

"The World Trade Organization lost much of its clout during the Trump administration, and much of the world has reneged on agreements that were put in place to benefit developing countries.

"Those signing regional trade agreements, like the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, are seeing far greater benefits, but aside from the African Continental Free Trade Area, South Africa has not done much work to protect and secure its markets. Africa is not going to save South Africa's exports if we lose greater global access. We have high-value commodities that need the [developed world] markets."

Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz, lamented the high import tariffs imposed on South Africa by the other BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India and China.

"Australia and Chile access the Chinese market with no preferential tariffs, while South African wine producers face duties as high as 14%. Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Chile have bilateral agreements with China that we don't have, and thus we face higher duties.

"Our involvement in BRICS, though it is a political grouping and not a trade bloc per se, should provide an opportunity to lobby for lower duties on food, fibre and beverage products."

He noted that such engagements would not all be plain sailing, as China and India would most likely want a reciprocal agreement with South Africa. "This will put us in a challenging position, as government is simultaneously pushing its localisation strategy." – *Lindi Botha*

Rice farmers in western Kenya desperate to fend off quelea birds

The notorious red-billed quelea birds have invaded rice fields in western Kenya, sparking fears that thousands of small-scale farmers in the lakeside city of Kisumu might suffer their worst harvest in five years.

According to a BBC report, the farmers didn't know what to do, as the birds were destroying their lands regardless of their efforts to drive them away. The destructive force of the quelea derives from its numbers, which at times can exceed two million.

On that scale, the quelea can collectively consume as much as 20t of grain in 24 hours.

"I'm losing my voice because I spend all day shouting to chase the birds away. These birds are not afraid of anything," rice farmer Rose Nekesa told the BBC.

Her desperation has her using crude methods to chase the birds away: a huge lump of mud in one hand and a stick in the other.

"They are already used to us and everything we throw at them," Nekesa added.

Scarecrows, the occasional blaring of vuvuzelas and bird traps have all proved ineffective, the BBC reported.

Lawrence Odanga, another small-scale farmer, said: "The birds have destroyed nearly all four acres [1,6ha] of my farm. I won't earn anything. How will I take my children to school?"

In 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that US$50 million (about R9 million) worth of crops were lost to the birds annually, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the BBC, the latest quelea invasion in Kisumu amounted to some 10 million birds, which had already destroyed 121ha of rice fields. According to the county government, another 800ha were still at risk during the harvest season.

Other parts of the country have also suffered badly as millions of the birds invaded wheat farms in the southern Narok county, destroying an estimated 40% of the harvest, the BBC report said.

It added that the prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa, which has meant fewer seeds from wild grasses, may be behind the invasion of cultivated land as the birds look for an alternative source of food.

The BBC said one measure that authorities were pursuing was aerial spraying of the birds' roosting grounds, where they rested and bred, with the avicide fenthion. – *Staff Reporter*

Food insecurity shocks in the Sahel

Experts from the World Bank have suggested that the impending shocks in food insecurity affecting the Sahel region in North Africa would most likely be felt by households there much sooner than earlier predicted.

Quoting data from the Sahel, the experts wrote in a commentary on the World Bank's blog website that the data showed "that food security can drop much earlier, raising questions on how best to strengthen households' capacities to absorb shocks".

They said shocks and stressors, such as extreme weather events, economic downturns, and the COVID-19 pandemic, had adversely impacted people's well-being across the Sahel, where households were among the poorest in the world.

"As a region constantly battered by shocks, there is substantial policy interest in strengthening people's resilience, their capacity to absorb shocks, adapt to changing environments, and improve food security and well-being over time," the experts wrote in the commentary, which also included input from the UN's World Food Programme staff.

"Targeted interventions implemented at the right time can strengthen resilience: cash transfers can promote resilience to droughts, and cash transfers with complementary productive interventions can facilitate livelihood diversification," the researchers added in the commentary.

They noted that the WFP was conducting a programme in the Sahel aimed at improving resilience through interventions. – *Staff Reporter*

World in brief

UKRAINE

Ukraine has become the 178th country to join the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), according to a statement by the Rome-based organisation. It said Ukraine's membership had been endorsed by IFAD's governing council, its highest decision-making authority.

"IFAD began discussing membership with Ukraine in 2016, and the governing council's endorsement was among the last of the essential steps in the process," the statement said.

UNITED STATES

The US agriculture sector is projecting another strong year, with elevated crop prices and China's rebound from COVID-19 expected to boost farmers, chemical suppliers and grain traders, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

It noted that grain-trading heavyweights had forecast demand for crops, vegetable oils and livestock feed to remain strong in 2023.

China was also expected to increase its crop imports as COVID-19 restrictions in the country eased, the report added.

CHINA

China would step up efforts to boost its soya bean and edible oils output to become more food-secure, Reuters reported.

The world's top soya bean buyer wanted to cut its heavy reliance on imports of the oilseed.

In its annual rural policy blueprint, known as the 'No. 1 central document', China's State Council reiterated the goal to boost grain production by 50 million tons, from more than 650 million tons currently, state news agency Xinhua reported. – *Staff Reporter*

Industry hits back at leather production criticism

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation has reacted with dismay to claims of animal welfare abuses in the leather production industry. FW ARCHIVE

It is reckless of animal welfare organisations to make unfounded assumptions about the treatment of livestock in South Africa, according to James Faber, chairperson of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation.

He was reacting to a statement by the animal welfare organisation Four Paws, in which it was claimed that there were serious concerns about certain aspects of leather production, such as painful mutilation of animals, dehorning, and branding with hot irons.

"Livestock production in the red meat industry and, *inter alia*, leather production, is stringently regulated. To this effect, the Red Meat Industry Forum has instituted a dedicated animal welfare team, among other [initiatives].

"Both the abattoir and feedlot industries have strict rules and regulations in place to ensure the humane treatment of livestock in the red meat value chain. I would advise the claimants to engage with the industry to acquaint themselves with the true state of affairs," Faber told *Farmer's Weekly*.

Four Paws announced its intention to highlight the alleged cruelty and lack of transparency around the use of bovine and exotic leather.

The organisation appealed to the public in the statement to put more pressure on fashion brands for transparency in their supply channels and marketing, for more adherence to ethical animal welfare standards, and for brands to meet best practice principles for animal welfare.

According to a report by the campaigns officer of Four Paws in South Africa, Bertha Moteane, the organisation's main concerns with regard to bovine leather production were the keeping of cattle in confined spaces and painful mutilation. The latter included dehorning, castrations and nose piercings performed without the use of pain relief measures.

Faber responded to these claims by saying that the majority of beef cattle species in South Africa were naturally polled, which made dehorning largely unnecessary, and nose rings were seldom used anymore.

The branding of cattle, as required by South African legislation, was undertaken with the utmost care and in a very humane way, he said.

"I invite the writer of the report to engage with the Red Meat Industry Forum in order to find out how high the welfare of animals is on the agenda.

"It should also be kept in mind that 1,2 million households in the country own and depend on livestock production as a source of income.

"Irresponsible statements that create incorrect perceptions could put food security in severe danger, as leather is an important part of livestock production," Faber said. – *Annelie Coleman*

'Hi Saai' standing by to answer farmers' questions

The Southern African Agri Initiative (SAAI) recently launched South Africa's first artificial intelligence (AI) platform for farmers, called Hi Saai, on WhatsApp.

Francois Rossouw, CEO of SAAI, said the platform had been made available to SAAI members for testing, and would be opened up to non-members within the next few weeks.

"The AI revolution is as big as the Internet revolution of a few years ago, so we want farmers to have a positive experience when they use it," he said.

The platform had been built into ChatGTP, an artificial chat programme launched in November last year.

According to SAAI, ChatGTP provided detailed answers to questions it received via the Internet, based on information collected from millions of data points.

Rossouw said the initiative had started out after he asked ChatGTP a few farming questions and realised it provided "pretty good answers". SAAI had thereafter asked a computer scientist with an agricultural background to validate the program's accuracy by directing thousands of agriculture-related questions at it.

From there, SAAI had integrated ChatGTP with localised agricultural data gathered from South African agricultural magazines such as *Farmer's Weekly*, research, encyclopaedias, policy documents, and other sources. Local content represented 30% of the information on which Hi Saai was built.

Rossouw said most of the users so far had used the platform to help them with difficult cost and production calculations, for example the cost of erecting fences on a specific farm, or planting a specific type of crop. The usefulness of the answers depended greatly on the amount of detail that went into the questions.

For example, when asking about cattle, it was a good idea to include the breed, or when enquiring about the planting of crops, it was best to include soil types.

"I've asked questions that ran over two pages, which generated excellent advice," Roussouw said.

SAAI planned to roll out the platform to the rest of Africa and later worldwide. The long-term goal was to devise an app.

"SAAI is already involved in discussions with agricultural unions worldwide to make the platform available as widely as possible. The [most remote], smallest and poorest farmers can get the best available advice from Hi Saai if they have Internet connection." – *Glenneis Kriel*

Raised Brandvlei canal wall to provide more water

The Brandvlei Water Feeder Canal project near Rawsonville in the Western Cape was officially launched by Minister of Water and Sanitation Senzo Mchunu last month.

The R21 million project, which formed part of the Greater Brandvlei Scheme, entailed raising the wall of the feeder canal by 30cm over a 4km stretch, enabling the storage of an additional 33 million cubic metres of water.

Mchunu said that 4 400ha of land would benefit from the project, which in turn would unlock employment and business opportunities for the people of the Breede Valley region.

Louis Bruwer, CEO of the Central Breede River Water Users' Association, told *Farmer's Weekly* that the idea for the project originated in 2005 following an assessment indicating that farmers in the region needed greater access to water.

The project went through various phases, including coming to a standstill in 2015, after which the Western Cape Department of Agriculture managed to get it restarted in about 2018.

Bruwer said the additional water from the canal would be allocated to farmers in three phases, with the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency taking charge of the process.

In the first phase, which was in progress, black farmers and businesses could apply for water rights, while black economic empowerment farms and businesses would be able to apply during the second phase.

Commercial farmers would be able to apply for additional water once the water allocations of the first two phases had been settled.

During the launch of the project, the Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Anton Bredell, thanked Mchunu for his personal interest and the hard work of his officials in realising the project.

"This water infrastructure will result in agricultural growth to the benefit of neighbouring towns and poor communities. It's also crucial in the context of climate change, which is expected to result in hotter and drier climatic conditions in the Western Cape, along with more extreme flooding and droughts," he said.

He added that the growing population of the Western Cape also had to be taken into account, pointing out that the province's population had increased by 120 000 people in 2022 alone.

Minister Senzo Mchunu (left) and MEC Anton Bredell at the official launch of the Brandvlei Water Feeder Canal project.
WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Bredell requested that the Clanwilliam Dam enlargement project, at a cost of R3,5 billion, should now also receive the minister's full attention.

"This project will strengthen water security for the Lower Olifants [River] farmer community, and allow for an additional 6 000ha of irrigation farming to be developed. It will allow the entire region to grow economically, create jobs and fight poverty." – *Glenneis Kriel*

Bright future for North West chia seed producer

Chia seed producer Kelebogile Matsose, one of eight small-scale farmers in North West who recently completed the year-long South African Good Agricultural Practices programme (SA-GAP) programme, says the qualification has motivated her to work towards establishing a chia-tea production plant and exporting her product (*see page 10*).

"I'm grateful for what the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development [agriculture department] has done for me. Through SA-GAP, I've learnt a lot about farm management, data recording, traceability of products, financial management, food safety and handling, and a whole lot of other stuff in this business," she said in a statement.

According to the agriculture department, SA-GAP was a set of practices that addressed environmental, economic and social sustainability aspects of on-farm processes to ensure the production of safe and good-quality food.

The department stated on its website that the programme had four pillars, namely economic viability, environmental sustainability, social acceptability, and food safety and quality.

Matsose farmed with her family near Makwassie in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality. They kept livestock, and planted maize, sunflower and various vegetables.

She was responsible for the production of chia seed and chia tea, and employed three permanent workers and five seasonal workers.

As part of the SA-GAP programme, the agriculture department had provided her with a marine container equipped with steel sinks, tables and shelves.

She had also received a mobile cold room, harvesting crates, and packaging and processing equipment.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, seeds of the chia plant (*Salvia hispanica*) were rich in omega-3 fatty acids.

They contained both soluble and insoluble fibres, proteins, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, and helped prevent cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and inflammatory and nervous-system disorders. – *Annelie Coleman*

‘Farm consolidation spells disaster for rural towns’

The trend towards fewer yet larger farms is picking up pace in South Africa, as rising input costs and lower profitability are pushing farmers closer to going out of business.

Dr Theo de Jager, executive director of the Southern African Agri Initiative, told *Farmer’s Weekly* that a high number of farms had been put on the market over the past few years, as producers’ profit margins were under increasing pressure.

“Given the problems with the Land Bank, many farmers have also been unable to access credit. Since many of them use their land as security, and with the spate of land repossessions by the Land Bank, a large number of them have opted to sell their farms first to try to get a better price,” De Jager said.

He added that sales of crop farms in Groblersdal, Marble Hall and Tzaneen in Limpopo, cattle farms in North West, and wine and sugar farms in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal had increased.

Andreas Greeff, managing director of Vleissentraal Properties, said that game farms had been consistently coming onto the market after the price of game started falling sharply in about 2017.

‘SOUTH AFRICA HAS BECOME A GRAVEYARD OF SMALL TOWNS’

He noted that while many farms across all regions and commodity categories were being put onto the market, they were mostly overpriced and were not selling very quickly.

“Farmers facing financial difficulties tend to base their asking price on their outstanding debt, and what they need to buy their next property.

“This generally means prices aren’t market-related, so [farms] aren’t quick to sell,” Greeff said.

He added, however, that those farms that were “priced right” were selling fast, and stressed that there was high demand for farms.

“The need for economies of scale is driving farmers to buy more land and expand their operations,” Greeff said.

De Jager said the prevalence of bigger farms getting even larger, and medium- and smaller-sized farms disappearing altogether, was a concerning trend that would ultimately decimate smaller towns across South Africa, increasing poverty levels.

“When farms get to a point where they operate like big companies, they don’t use the service providers in [nearby] towns.

“This puts smaller local companies out of business. Eventually, the schools, churches and co-ops [disappear] as opportunities dry up and people move away [from small towns]. South Africa has become a graveyard of small towns,” De Jager said. – *Lindi Botha*

Fresh produce trends highlight need for balance

Broader sustainability and product differentiation are two key themes that are set to dominate the fresh produce landscape this year.

In its 2023 trends report, Fruit Logistica said worker welfare was a prevalent theme, with supermarkets leading the charge for fairer wages. However, it added that the questions of what constituted fair prices for fruit and vegetables, and fair wages for those who produced it, were strongly debated.

Franka Rodriguez, director of global sourcing at retail group Aldi South, noted in the report that for years, European retailers had pursued an aggressive low-cost pricing strategy for bananas.

“The balancing act is being able to offer our consumers attractive prices while still paying [producers] fair wages,” she said.

She added that through greater business efficiencies, cost reductions in the retail price of bananas could be achieved. “We focus on the essentials, and therefore offer a smaller range of products. We also internationalise the buying process in our fresh produce categories, which creates bundling effects and economies of scale that we can ultimately pass on to our consumers.”

Another point of contention was packaging, which was increasingly coming under fire from legislation, with each European country having different criteria, the report said.

Philippe Binard, general delegate at Freshfel Europe, said in the report that packaging was an area where economic and environmental sustainability seemed to contradict each other.

“If each country sets its own rules, targets and labels to demonstrate that they are compliant with recycling requirements, that’s a big issue.

“This will inevitably push up costs since producers would need to manage stock for different markets, without always knowing its final destination.”

He noted that since packaging was not only a means of transporting a product, but also a means to avoid food waste, secure food safety, avoid contamination, and maintain quality, there would be a very significant impact if produce were to be sold loose.

“It will change purchasing habits completely and be detrimental for the sector. We need one legislation for one Europe, and policies have to be coherent.”

ClemenGold marketing manager Adéle Ackerman said product differentiation was more important than ever for maintaining market share.

The ClemenGold brand had achieved much success with citrus branding, and Ackerman believed there was more scope for expansion into the Asian market in particular.

“‘New Asia’ has emerged in terms of branding fresh fruit, despite traditionally being a market of brandless, mass-produced commodities. China is a unique market where there is an opportunity for brand building.

“On the other hand, the need in Europe is to put something on the shelf that drives value. The economic pressures in the European retail market drive the pricing down somewhat, but the pressure to differentiate in quality and price leaves an opportunity in that market for strong brands with strong strategies,” she said in the report. – *Lindi Botha*

‘Fix the image of the farmer,’ says pork industry

With the vast majority of vegans claiming animal welfare concerns as a reason for shunning meat, and given the prevailing negative public perceptions about farmers, factual and positive messaging is needed to turn the tide.

This was according to Johann Kotzé, CEO of the South African Pork Producers’ Organisation (SAPPO).

He added, however, that any communication had to be authentic and backed up by evidence of improved practices.

“Consumers have no faith in farmers, and have a negative perception about what happens on farms. SAPPO aims to change the image of the farmer through the Pork 360 programme, which gives set standards that need to be adhered to, resulting in a value chain that has integrity.”

The Pork 360 assurance scheme had 12 disciplines on which there was shared consensus. These included practices that improved animal welfare, quality and food safety. Over 75% of the national pig herd was Pork 360-certified, Kotzé said.

Late last year, SAPPO started posting videos of pig farming on social media platforms. To date, the videos had received 2,6 million interactions.

Kotzé said consumers were “hungry for authentic interactions, and because these videos showed the reality of what farms, farmers, their families and pig herds looks like, the view on pork is becoming more positive”.

Retailer Woolworths was focusing its campaigns on sourcing and advertising pork that was produced with sow welfare in mind. The ‘kinder to sows’ label could be found on all its pork products, and referred to the policy of keeping sows in gestation crates for a maximum of one week, as opposed to the international standard of eight weeks.

In a statement, Woolworths said that it had been trying to expand its free-range pork offering, but sourcing ‘true free-range’ pork that was available all year round and was competitively priced had been very challenging.

“Consequently, we have rather focused on tackling some of the practices used in intensive farming and improving the lives of sows,” it said in a statement.

Kotzé added that one of the challenges in improving standards was achieving adherence across the entire value chain.

“The farmer is but one link in the chain. They can meet all the standards, but the next person along the value chain may not, so the pork can’t be certified or advertised as being superior, even if it was farmed with greater welfare. This is why, as an industry, we want all role players to adhere to a certain standard.”*– Lindi Botha*

Bleak outlook for SA poultry industry in 2023

The tight margins that the poultry industry experienced in 2022 have been carried over to 2023 due to elevated production costs, which are being exacerbated by the current high level of rolling blackouts.

This was according to Paul Makube, senior agricultural economist at FNB Agribusiness.

Makube said in a statement that although South Africa was well supplied with chicken, rolling blackouts had already disrupted operations during December 2022, when intermittent availability of certain product lines from some fast-food outlets was experienced.

“The situation worsened early in 2023, which affected the entire chicken value chain and the broader agriculture sector, especially electricity-intensive production systems such as poultry, pork, dairy and irrigated crops.

“Further up the value chain, it impacted negatively on abattoirs, feed milling, and other produce-processing operations,” Makube stated.

Lichtenburg chicken producer Herman du Preez told *Farmer’s Weekly* that the problems he had experienced with Eskom, of which rolling blackouts were but one, were significantly eroding on-farm profit margins.

He added that he had lost 40 000 chickens earlier this year due to persistent problems with the power supply to his farm. The mortalities had followed problems with a transformer, which prompted Eskom to connect the area where Du Preez’s farm was located to an alternative power line.

‘I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CARRY ON AND IMPROVE PRODUCTION EFFICIENCIES’

The variations in the voltage on the line caused severe damage to his equipment.

“How can farmers be expected to continue producing safe, sufficient and affordable food under these conditions? Losses like ours have a direct impact on long-term sustainability and the very livelihoods of our 40 farmworkers.

“Although the situation is challenging in the extreme, I have no choice but to carry on and improve production efficiencies in an innovative way,” Du Preez said.

Makube pointed out that input costs in the poultry industry had increased over the past 12 months. The price of maize, a major raw input, which accounted for over 70% of feed, had reached about R5 470/t and R5 259/t for white and yellow maize respectively in November 2022.

He said the additional costs of operating generators for extended periods, together with the associated maintenance, had further eroded margins, threatening industry growth.

“On top of that, the general network infrastructure and municipal services critical for agricultural operations have been denuded over time, and in some instances are non-existent in several small rural towns.

“Nonetheless, the positive news for consumers is that overall inflation has shown signs of slowing down, with the December 2022 CPI easing to 7,2% year-on-year (y/y), and the food CPI off its 2022 peak of 12,7% y/y.” *– Annelie Coleman*

Agri-Expo restructures to ensure sustainability

Agri-Expo, formerly the Cape of Good Hope Agricultural Society and the oldest such society in South Africa, recently downscaled its staff and projects in an attempt to improve its sustainability.

As part of this process, Breyton Milford, who had previously served as the non-profit organisation's operations manager, was appointed as its new CEO.

Milford confirmed in a statement that 10 staff members had been retrenched, leaving the organisation with only four employees. Some of the retrenched staff members would, however, continue to work for the organisation, as needed, on a contract basis.

"Our ex-staff members are experts in their fields, so it'll make sense to employ them on some of our projects," he said.

Milford said that Agri-Expo's council had set its focus on the wine industry, with the South African Young Wine Show being the biggest priority for now. The organisation would also concentrate on the dairy industry (specifically the South African Dairy Championships), support for agricultural schools, and the shows for its members.

Breyton Milford has been appointed as the new CEO of Agri-Expo. AGRI-EXPO

"We're starting with a blank canvas and will see how we can do things differently to add value to projects. We'll see how things grow from here," Milford said.

The "inevitable restructuring" was blamed on significant losses due to projects not generating a profit during the past couple of years and the poor economic climate.

Milford told *Farmer's Weekly* that the events industry had suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, but the main problem was that Agri-Expo had been "living off interest from its investments that were no longer growing well because of the poor economic climate".

"Our large salary bill, which has since been cut by more than 70%, forced the company to cut deeper and deeper into its investments."

In the statement, Pieter van Wyk, president of Agri-Expo, said problems arising during the past couple of years had been structural in nature.

"We had to bring our expenditure in line with our income. If we [hadn't] made these hard decisions now, this 192-year-old agricultural society would have had to close its doors in about 10 years," he said. – *Glenneis Kriel*

Shop around to save input costs, advises Grain SA

Significant differences in the prices of agricultural inputs between regions have been uncovered in Grain SA's price monitoring survey undertaken in the previous season.

Heleen Viljoen, a junior economist at Grain SA, said that in the organisation's Area 1, which included Eendekuil, Vredendal, Moorreesburg, Piketberg and Porterville in the Western Cape, producers had paid an average of R113/ℓ for the herbicide Triflurex EC.

However, producers in Area 2, which included Paarl, Ceres, Durbanville, Hermon, Malmesbury and Riebeek West, had paid R110/ℓ.

In Area 4, which included Caledon, Riviersonderend, Napier and Bredasdorp, the price had averaged around R103/ℓ, and in Area 3, which included George, Riversdale, Heidelberg and Swellendam, about R93/ℓ. The average price for the Western Cape as a whole was R106/ℓ.

The same trend occurred with Sakura herbicide, which averaged R5 335/kg. Producers in Area 1 again paid the highest price on average of R5 350/kg, compared with R5 330/kg in Area 2, R5 300/kg in Area 3, and R5 290/kg in Area 4.

Differences were also seen in average seed prices, with the price of SST wheat varying from an average of R520 for 50kg (highest) to R497 for 50kg (lowest).

Prices of the Diamond canola cultivar averaged R424/kg in the most expensive area and R379/kg in the cheapest area, while those of malting barley ranged between R442 per 50kg and R434 per 50kg.

The survey showed that the price differences applied irrespective of the month in which purchases were made.

Viljoen said that average urea prices had increased by 140% from 2021. In April 2022, one of the farmers surveyed had paid R12 750/t for urea, while another had paid R21 500/t.

Derek Mathews, chairperson of Grain SA, encouraged farmers to participate in the survey to obtain solid, representative data for their areas, which they could then use to inform their purchasing decisions.

"You have to ask your sales consultant why there's such a big difference in prices and use this data to negotiate prices down."

He said there was no more room for "huge profits" in the value chain at the expense of farmers who were struggling to survive.

"We would like to see producers bypass sales representatives and buy their inputs directly from suppliers. They could then employ consultants to give them production advice," Mathews added. – *Glenneis Kriel*

Sugar industry braced for turmoil, unless Godongwana offers a budget sweetener

The prospect of an increase in the sugar tax threatens to deepen the industry's decline, according to a new study presented ahead of Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's budget speech. **Ellis Mnyandu** reports.

A study released on the eve of Finance Minister Enoch Gondongwana's much-awaited budget speech paints a bleak picture for the future of the sugar industry, with little evidence to suggest that government intends to reduce or scrap the Health Promotion Levy (HPL), commonly known as the sugar tax.

The measure, which has already cost the industry more than R2 billion and 16 000 jobs since its introduction in 2018, according to various stakeholders, has become the most pressing issue for the industry, which for many years has been the backbone of numerous rural communities and small-scale cane growers in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. According to the study, which was conducted by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) on behalf of the South African Sugar Association (SASA), the country was poised to see a significant reduction in the area planted to sugar cane over the next 10 years, and almost 3 000 small-scale cane growers stood to lose their livelihoods. Other consequences included the closure of more sugar mills, and some 6 200 permanent and seasonal jobs being lost.

Sandy Jackson, head of Agri-Socio Economics at BFAP, said at a presentation detailing the outcomes of the study: "Any changes to the current HPL that are aimed at further reducing the local demand and consumption of refined white sugar will have significant adverse consequences for the milling sector, the growers and the rural economy."

She said the best-case scenario for the industry in the interim would be no change in the HPL, as any increase would further dent local demand for refined white sugar. This would compound the challenges already confronting the industry, including the impact of rising input costs and power disruptions.

"We hope government can look at the issue of the HPL more holistically in terms of what can be done to grow the industry in a positive way."

She said that when modelling for an increase in the HPL, the study had found that the North Coast of KwaZulu-Natal would bear the brunt of job losses, with a projected net reduction of 4 017 permanent and seasonal jobs by 2031, from the current total employment complement of 28 615 jobs.

According to Jackson, the North Coast area, which included the Tugela region and dryland cane in Zululand, was projected to lose 18 700ha (about 12% of land under cane) between 2022 and 2031 as a result of prevailing baseline conditions. But when the actual impact of a contemplated increase in the HPL was factored in, there would be a further reduction of 14 970ha (for a net loss of 33 600ha or 22% of the current cane area).

That estimate envisaged a 160 000t reduction in local refined sugar demand.

In the Midlands region, where mill breakdowns had resulted in "an increasingly challenging situation with carry-over cane and resultant cash-flow problems for farmers", some 9 600ha, or 11% of the cane area, were expected to go out of production. The South Coast region was expected to see a drop from around 51 000ha in 2022 to 44 100ha in 2024.

At the time of *Farmer's Weekly* going to print, the HPL stood at 2,31c/g of sugar content that exceeded 4g/100ml in sugary beverages.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES

Before Godongwana's budget speech, several proposals had been made on increasing or expanding the levy, including via an inflation-linked adjustment. According to Sifiso Mhlaba, SASA's national market and international affairs executive, Godongwana had last raised the HPL in 2022 (from 2,21c/g). However, the increase had been postponed until 2023 to allow for broader consultation.

"A 'no change' in the next two weeks would be a big tick," Mhlaba said ahead of the budget speech, adding that this would help remove uncertainty and foster a more holistic approach in the formulation and implementation of steps to stabilise the industry.

Sifiso Mhlaba, national market and international affairs executive at the South African Sugar Association, speaks at a Durban presentation of a study that showed that the sugar industry's problems may get worse if government raises the sugar tax. ELLIS MNYANDU

When government introduced the HPL, it had explained that obesity and other diseases would be reduced as a result, an objective that the sugar industry said needed further interrogation and evidence to support such claims.

The HPL also required the soft drinks industry to reformulate product recipes and replace cane sugar with alternative or artificial sweeteners. This had resulted in a drop in refined sugar sales to the sugar-sweetened beverage industry from 550 000t in 2016 to a little under 300 000t currently.

According to the BFAP study, this reduction had accounted for over 80% of total market decline.

Fresh produce prices look set to continue rising during 2023

The prices of most fresh produce categories, tomatoes being the exception, increased dramatically over the past year. **Absa AgriBusiness** discusses this and other trends in the marketplace.

In yearly terms, the price of tomatoes remains on its downward trajectory from the high base seen in 2022. However, the consensus is that, in general, fresh produce will see higher prices as the year progresses.

These increases are expected to be the result of a combination of factors that include unfavourable weather conditions, rolling blackouts, and civil unrest.

In the case of civil unrest, service-delivery protests in Petrusburg in the Free State in early February affected labour in the area, as well as transportation of produce from it.

It is probable that high vegetable prices have contributed to the persistently high food inflation seen in South Africa over the past few months.

CABBAGES

In February, the cabbage price increased by more than 51% month-on-month (m/m), despite a 7,8% increase in volume (*see Graph 1*). The price was up 85,3% year-on-year (y/y) on the back of a 34,2% drop in volume.

The lower volume in yearly terms was most likely attributible to high temperatures and rolling blackouts, which affected the quality of the crop that could be marketed.

During the first week of February, cabbages traded at an average of R4 513/t across the country's five main fresh produce markets.

Historical seasonal trends suggest that the price will continue on its upward trend until April, when volumes will start to increase. However, the current high price could lead to lower demand, which would subsequently only allow for modest price increases over the next few weeks.

CARROTS

As with cabbages, the carrot supply chain was affected by rolling blackouts and high temperatures, which had a negative impact on the quality of the fresh produce.

As a result, the price of carrots rose by 4% m/m in February, despite a 38% increase in volume (*see Graph 1*). In yearly terms, the volume was down by over 20%, which led to the price more than doubling.

In the first week of February, carrots traded at an average of R5 736/t across the primary fresh produce markets.

Historical seasonal trends suggest that prices will follow an upward trend throughout the first quarter of 2023, after which they should ease as a result of higher volumes.

As with cabbages, the caveat here is that prices are already high, and demand constraints could limit the possibility of further substantial price growth.

ONIONS

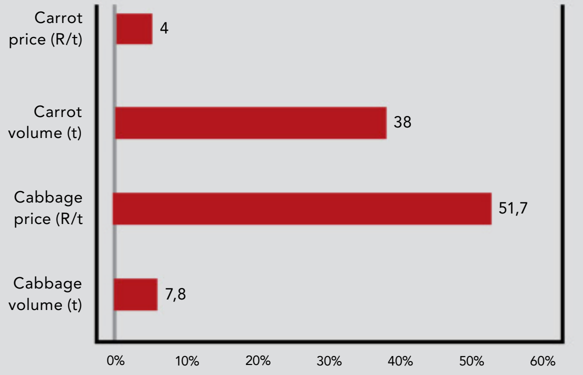
The price of onions climbed 73,8% y/y, despite the 3,1% increase in volume. The monthly price, on the other hand, eased by more than 30% on account of volume growth of almost 98% (*see Graph 2*).

During the first week of February, onions traded at an average of R6 599/t across the five fresh produce markets.

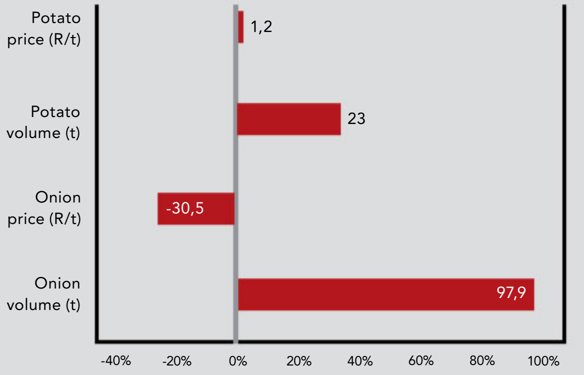
As with the other fresh produce categories discussed here, historical seasonal trends suggest further scope for upward price movements.

Once again, however, given the elevated price levels already seen during the first few weeks of the

Graph 1: Month-on-month changes in volumes and prices (%) of cabbages and carrots



Graph 2: Month-on-month changes in volumes and prices (%) of onions and potatoes



year, substantial growth in the onion price over the coming weeks could also be limited.

POTATOES

The price of potatoes increased marginally m/m, with volumes rising by 23% (*see Graph 2*). However, rainfall in the first week of February had a negative effect on volume and quality. Conversely, the price was up 70,4% y/y as a result of a 15,6% drop in volume.

In the first week of February, potatoes were trading at an average of R6 166/t across South Africa's five biggest fresh produce markets.

Historical seasonal trends suggest that prices will remain close to current levels in the months to come, as potatoes from the eastern Free State enter the market. They are expected to start increasing during the latter months of the second quarter, however.

ROLLING BLACKOUTS, UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER AND CIVIL UNREST COULD LEAD TO HIGHER PRICES FOR FRESH PRODUCE

TOMATOES

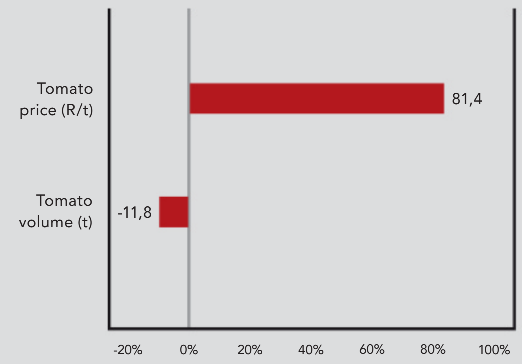
In early February, the price of tomatoes climbed 81,4% m/m because of the dip in volume of around 12% (*see Graph 3*). Market stakeholders also noted that rain in December affected the quality of the crop during the past month, with negative consequences for the price.

By contrast, when compared with the corresponding period in 2022, the price of tomatoes was marginally lower due to a slight improvement in annual volumes.

During the first week of February, tomatoes traded at an average of R13 524/t across the five main fresh produce markets. Historical seasonal trends suggest that there will be room for upward movement in the price until April.

Email Olga de Freitas of Absa AgriBusiness at Olga.deFreitas@absa.africa. **FW**

Graph 3: Month-on-month changes in volume and price (%) of tomatoes



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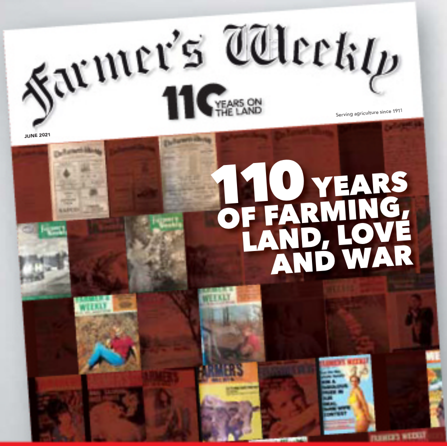

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Financial literacy is vital at work *and* at home

Financial literacy is not only essential for any ambitious business manager to master. It's a critical life skill for building a successful and happy family and home life, says **Peter Hughes**.

One of my firmly held beliefs is that priorities in life come in this order: health, family and job. But I admit, I sometimes get confused!

Whenever I pontificate on these priorities to my children, my wife reminds me of a time she had to drive herself to and from hospital in town when she needed an urgent surgical procedure. She claims I said that I was too busy. I don't recall it, but I'm glad to say that I have been forgiven!

Experience has taught me, however, that there is another crucial priority in life. One for which we never received any training and are completely unqualified: the management of our own personal financial affairs.

We dive into our first jobs and, without much thought, start earning. We take life as it comes, and spend our newfound wealth as the spirit moves us and the bank balance permits.

I've written extensively on the need for any manager, at any level, to develop reasonable financial literacy. Without gaining an understanding of basic financial terminology and concepts, non-financial managers will always be at a disadvantage when money matters are discussed in the business.

Their inability to contribute intelligently on financial affairs will effectively thwart any ambitions they may have of ever becoming senior business managers.

MANAGING MONEY AT HOME

Financial literacy and savvy are also critical to managing our own personal financial affairs. It includes settlement of accounts, borrowing money, paying off debts, covering risk, medical aid, making provision for children's education, and retirement. The list goes on and on.

But worse still, lack of personal financial literacy can result in domestic horrors. Broken homes, divorces, health issues from stress and depression, and even murder or suicide in extreme cases.

An ability to manage one's financial affairs is not a 'nice to have'; it's an essential life skill for success and happiness.

The job of managing one's personal affairs mirrors almost exactly that of running a profitable business. It includes maximising earnings, reducing expenses, saving and keeping some cash in reserve, investing wisely for future needs, protecting assets against loss, and more.

GET AN INSURANCE BROKER TO HELP YOU SELECT THE BEST POLICIES FOR YOUR NEEDS

It's not my intention to delve into financial concepts such as the time-value of money, compound interest, the difference between fixed, variable and marginal costs, and the intricacies of personal financial management. These topics are covered exhaustively in hundreds of articles on the Internet.

Instead, let's have a look at a few key issues under each of these headings.

- **Earnings**

As a manager, you are selling your skill. Make sure it's being paid for competitively at the prevailing market rate or above.

Benchmark your remuneration regularly, and make the most out of your earnings by taking advantage of all possible company benefits to minimise tax obligations.

- **Savings**

Don't save on an *ad hoc* basis for future expenses such as retirement and your children's education. Schedule a monthly amount paid straight off your pay cheque into an interest-bearing account.

Selecting investments is not for amateurs. Use a professional adviser who fully understands your personal situation, risk profile and objectives, and who bills a reasonable fee based on the performance of your investment.

- **Risk protection**

Assess the personal risks to you and your family. Ask all the uncomfortable 'what if' questions. What if I or my wife dies or is disabled? What if the house burns down, we are robbed or write off the car?

Do rational assessments of the degree of risk and its financial impact and rank them from highest to lowest. Get an insurance broker to help you select appropriate policies.

- **Spending**

Monthly expenses comprise only two types: 'needs' and 'wants'. Don't get them confused: never spend on 'wants' unless you have all the 'needs'.

- **Borrowing**

Sensible borrowing enables you to secure a home and increase your wealth. Just as you would in the business, shop around and do your homework. Look behind the numbers.

For example, determine exactly how the quoted interest rate is calculated, and get full details of terms and conditions. For a home loan, there are many 'bond brokers' available with expert knowledge to assist you.

Peter Hughes is a business and management consultant. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Managing for profit. **FW**

Why it makes sense to farm meat goats

Goats in South Africa are strongly linked to cultural and religious practices, and this creates a good, sustainable market. Goat herds grow quickly, and these hardy creatures are well suited to smaller farms, says **Shane Brody**.

Goat breeds such as the Boer goat, Savanna, and Kalahari red aren't only good meat-producing animals; they are hardy, and their feeding habits make them versatile and resilient. Also, they have a comparatively good resistance to vector- and tick-borne diseases (although this may differ between different goat varieties and gene pools).

In addition, goats have good maternal instincts, and I have noticed mature rams and ewes will protect their kids vigorously against predators such as jackals.

Unlike most cattle and sheep breeds, which are largely grazers (meaning they mainly eat grass in the open veld), goats love bushy biomes.

They will often choose to browse on trees and shrubs before they graze grass.

CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS

Having farmed Boer goats for a number of years, I have noticed that goats can control dense thickets and even invasive trees such as black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and Port Jacksons (*A. saligna*).

They do this by ring-barking trees at the lower levels of the trunk. Goats love tree bark and will eat bark in circular patterns until the tree eventually dies.

This only really occurs, however, if goats are left in bushy camps for excessive periods; you may want to conserve good indigenous trees by rotating herds at regular intervals, and target camps plagued by invasive water-hungry trees.

Some farmers shred trees and use this mixture of trunks, bark, seeds, branches, and leaves to feed goats in feedlots or kraals during kidding when they want to keep mothers with newly born offspring for a few weeks before allowing them back into open camps.

Always make sure trees your goats are graze are non-toxic.

PROLIFIC BREEDERS

Goats are able to breed all year round. In fact, they are prolific breeders, and can become sexually active at five to seven months of age.

I prefer putting maiden ewes to rams at about 12 months of age, when they have increased in body weight and their mothering instincts are better developed.

FIVE BREEDING EWES CAN BE CARRIED FOR EVERY COW THAT COULD BE FARMED

While most sheep farmers will only breed one crop of lambs a year, goats can produce offspring every eight months, thus producing three lots of offspring every two years.

Another big plus factor is that, although first-time breeders may only have single kids, older ewes are prone to having twins and triplets. This enables you to increase your herd size quite rapidly.

A further benefit compared with breeding cattle is that goats are pregnant for five months, while a cow's gestation period is nine months.

GREAT FOR SMALLER FARMS

Goats are better suited to smaller farms, where approximately five breeding ewes can be carried for every cow that could be farmed.

Good-quality well-cared-for goats can be weaned at about 100 days. At this stage they should weigh 15kg-18kg.

While there are goat buyers who will buy young goats of this age in order to grow them out further (prices can be in the region of R65/kg live weight), I choose to rather keep offspring until they are about nine months old.

If well cared for, they should weigh about 45kg. In recent years, good-quality goats in this weight category have been averaging about R53/kg live weight. This translates to about R2 385 per animal.

INDIGENOUS

I have mentioned heavier meat varieties of goat, and South Africa's communal farming areas already have a large number of indigenous and crossbred goats.

While these may not be as desirable for slaughter purposes, they are indeed hardy and are also prolific breeders.

In order to improve meat-producing capacity and the size of these goats, consider introducing rams from the aforementioned breeds.

This could be a beneficial 'upgrading strategy'. Certainly, it won't see your goats losing the natural immunity that indigenous goat species have developed over a number of generations.

Take care, however, to ensure that your goats are secure; these animals are notorious for escaping. Net fences will be needed to contain goats in certain areas.

Shane Brody is involved in an outreach programme aimed at transferring skills to communal farmers. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Communal farming. **FW**

How labour law can affect the sale of a farm

Employees are an integral part of a business and have 'a right to remain'. If the business is sold as a going concern, they cannot simply be dismissed (by seller or buyer) as a result of the sale, explains **Abrie Bronkhorst**.

South Africa's labour environment is strictly regulated, and employers have to manage labour relations in line with legislation.

There are a number of myths that can make employers think they are acting in accordance with legislation, when in fact they are putting their businesses at risk. One of these myths is that the new owner of a business sold as a going concern can summarily terminate staff employment contracts and fill these positions with his or her own team of employees.

In terms of the Labour Relations Act, when a business is sold as a going concern, an employee's employment contract is transferred to the new owner and employer. The new owner will, in effect, inherit all the staff on their existing terms and conditions of employment.

Any dismissal associated with the transfer will be deemed unfair.

Equally, the employer selling the business may not summarily dismiss the employees if the buyer does not wish to retain them. This would require a specific process and consultations with the affected parties. Dismissed employees can refer an automatically unfair dismissal dispute to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

If still unresolved, it can be referred to the Labour Court, and the employer could end up facing a court order of up to 24 months' compensation per employee.

As with any form of alleged automatic unfair dismissal, the court will first have to determine if the dismissal is causally related to the transfer of the business. If the employee makes a *prima facie* case that the dismissal is linked to the transfer of the business, the employer must be able to prove that the dismissal was due to a justifiable reason or fair operational requirements. Otherwise, the dismissal can be deemed automatically unfair.

BUSINESS RESTRUCTURING

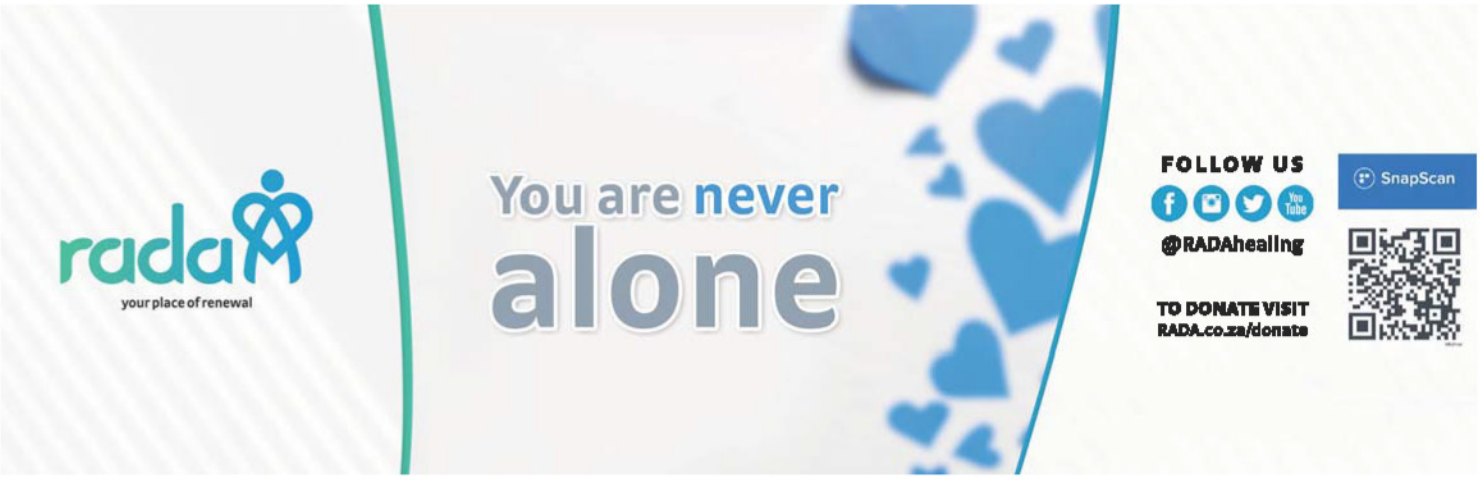
A new employer is entitled to restructure the business to accommodate the acquisition of another business, even if it involves the retrenchment of transferred employees. However, such restructuring may only continue if there are justifiable reasons to retrench the employees shortly after the merger. Dismissal should always be the last resort after careful consideration.

The previous owner and new owner should reach a written agreement on the transfer of business that reflects the most relevant information. This will form the terms and conditions binding the parties. Be very clear about the following:

- All leave accrued by employees;
- The severance pay payable to the transferred employees in the event of dismissal due to operational requirements (retrenchment);
- Any other payments due, but not yet been paid out;
- Which 'owner' will be liable for which payments.

The only way that a farm owner involved in the transfer of a business can avoid potential automatically unfair dismissals is to enter into an agreement with the employees or their recognised representatives before transfer.

For all labour-related issues, phone the LWO Employers' Organisation on 0861 101 828. Email the LWO at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Labour. **FW**



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Beef and wine in South Korea: big opportunities for SA exporters

South Korea is one of the world's least self-sufficient countries in terms of agricultural production. **Janine Ryan** looks at some of the opportunities in this East Asian country that may await South African farmers and exporters of wine and beef.

ABOVE: Rice accounts for 90% of all grain production in South Korea, but it is declining as consumption trends are shifting.
PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

South Korea has been touted by many agricultural economists and other industry role players as a burgeoning market for South African agricultural trade.

This is largely because South Korea is a major importer of food and food products.

And with a population of close to 52 million people and topography that doesn't lend itself to extensive agricultural production, it is likely that South Korea will remain a net importer of food for some time to come.

This is evidenced by the increase in the value of agricultural products imported into the country over the past decade, with the import value of food rising from US$21,36 billion (about R180 billion) in 2012 to US$32,58 billion (R526 billion) in 2021.

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH KOREA

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, when it comes to agricultural production, South Korea is one of the world's least self-sufficient countries.

Despite the current state of agriculture in South Korea, the country was a mostly agricultural society until the 1960s. As in many countries, farmers in early South Korea were mostly peasants who grew crops and farmed livestock on land owned by wealthy landlords.

From 1945 to 1950, the US and South Korean governments set about restoring land to the landless farmers. However, this programme was interrupted by the Korean War, which lasted from mid-1950 to mid-1953.

The Land Reform Act was thus only fully implemented in June 1954, after the Korean War had ended. The Act introduced an ownership cap on land, with each household only allowed to own up to 3ha. The South Korean government also bought land to distribute among farmers who didn't have any.

With the rise of industrialisation in the 1960s, many farmers moved from the land to the cities to capitalise on better employment opportunities. However, before the industrialisation boom, 63% of South Koreans were farmers and lived in rural areas.

By the 1980s, however, this had dropped to 21% of the workforce, and farms were an average of 0,5ha to 1ha in size. By 2019, the percentage of South Koreans working in agriculture had dropped below 6%. By comparison, the world average in 2019 based on 180 countries was 23,51%.

PROBLEMS WITH EXPANDING AGRICULTURE

South Korea is a mountainous country, and only 22% of its land is arable, making it difficult to efficiently run livestock or grow crops there.

Moreover, ownership laws capping the amount of land that farmers can own has made it difficult for them to produce at scale, and to implement improved technologies that prove too expensive.

The expansion of cities and urban areas have also led to a decrease in arable land. In addition, South Korea has the challenge of an ageing farming population, with the average age of farmers in the country at around 65 years.

Unfavourable weather also remains an issue, despite the government's support initiatives to promote smart farming that is less water-intensive and more tolerant of changes in temperatures.

In 2021, South Korea's agriculture sector contributed less than 2% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). By comparison, in 1987, the sector contributed 12,8% to the national GDP.

OPPORTUNITIES

South Korea's economy has seen significant growth over the past three decades and is on course to expand even further as the country establishes itself in industry.

This means consumers are becoming wealthier and therefore have more money to spend on food. South Korea is the eighth-largest importer of agricultural goods in the world, according to the US Department of Agriculture. It is a major importer of beef, maize, pork and fresh fruit.

The US is currently South Korea's biggest trading partner of agricultural products, accounting for around 27% of all South Korean imports. The EU follows with a 13% stake, Australia with 11% and China with 10%.

BEEF

According to Jung-Sup Choi *et al*, beef is very expensive in South Korea because of a lack of local supply and tariffs on imported goods. Between 1990 and 2000, demand for beef in the country rose by 8,6% per annum, even as the national herd continued to shrink. Thus, the country has been importing more beef to meet the growing demand of wealthier consumers.

Beef is mostly consumed as *bulgogi* (barbequed meat), for which high-value cuts such as sirloin and rib-eye are generally used. In a survey by South Korea's National Agricultural Cooperative Federation in 2000, which asked respondents in and around the capital city of Seoul about their meat preferences, 73% of respondents said that the quality of beef was more important than its price.

SA MUST NEGOTIATE COMPARTMENTALISATION PROTOCOLS WITH SOUTH KOREA TO GIVE LOCAL EXPORTERS ACCESS TO THIS LUCRATIVE MARKET

Despite the increase in demand for beef, it is unlikely that South Korean beef production will grow. One of the reasons for this is that all of the country's feed requirements are imported, making it very expensive for farmers to raise cattle. And since farmers can't produce at scale, beef production is largely unprofitable, too.

South Africa produces ample high-quality beef at relatively affordable prices. South Korea is therefore an important potential market for large-scale meat exports from South Africa. Currently, South Korea mainly imports meat from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

One of the barriers to boosting South African beef exports to South Korea is bureaucratic red

FAST FACTS

South Korea remains a burgeoning potential market for South African agricultural products.

Beef and wine consumption in South Korea are expanding rapidly.

South African farmers are able to produce affordable, high-quality meat, and could supply the growing demand for beef in South Korea.

GRAIN PRODUCTION

'South Korean governments [have been] slow to identify the domestic production of only 20% of total grain consumption there as a critical vulnerability. In 2011, the Lee Myung-bak administration (2008–2013) promised to boost the country's output of meat and produce, and proposed the establishment of an agency to ensure sufficient food procurement. However, this never came to fruition.

In 2018, the government established the National Institute of Crop Science, which set out to grow South Korea's domestic wheat production from less than 1% of total consumption to 10% by 2030.'

- *Source: Korean View (visit bit.ly/3xoZKRi).*

훈제 연어
명품와규
330.000
400.000

TOP: In South Korea, farms generally range in size from 0,5ha to 1ha, which means that farming remains largely unprofitable.

ABOVE: According to a survey by South Korea's National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, people there are willing to pay more if it means they'll get high-quality beef.

FLICKR

tape, as well as outbreaks of diseases like foot-and-mouth disease. That is why it is very important for South Africa to negotiate compartmentalisation protocols with South Korea to give local exporters access to this highly lucrative market.

Choi *et al* also said that as South Korea's beef imports continue to rise, price may become a differentiating factor. Therefore, if favourable tariffs could be negotiated, South Africa would be able to compete on price with countries that already export beef to South Korea, thanks to the largely affordable beef production here.

WINE

South Korea isn't a major consumer of wine; however, wine consumption has seen a double-digit increase over the past five years. (Still and sparkling grape-based wine consumption showed compound annual growth of 16% and 15% respectively over this period, according to Wine Intelligence's website.)

The main alcoholic beverages in South Korea are beer and spirits, but these saw a decline in consumption over the same period.

Thus, there is great potential for the exportation of wine from South Africa to South Korea.

Statistics also show that from 2017 to 2022, the number of consumers of grape-based wine in South Korea rose from 10,2 million to 12,6 million. According to Wine Intelligence: "This, in other words, is a category that is getting both broader and deeper in its penetration, yet it is one that still has huge potential, not least because per capita consumption remains extremely low.

"Being able to convert even a small percentage of [South Korea's] non-wine drinkers, or upselling the existing wine-drinking population slightly, could guarantee many more years of strong figures for the wine industry."

Despite the fact that it was only in 2020 that the South Korean government relaxed its rules regarding the online purchase of alcohol, one in five Korean wine drinkers now purchases wine in this way. This means there are further opportunities for marketing exposure in and improving exports of wine to the country.

- *Sources: Aswani, S. 2022. 'South Korea Remains One of Wine's Rare Hotspots for Growth'. Wine Intelligence. bit.ly/40WQr8F; Choi, J* et al. *2001. 'Beef Consumption, Supply and Trade in Korea'. bit.ly/3Iq5fFM.* **FW**

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For enquiries on our programmes or if you'd like to contribute to our endeavours (Afrika Tikkun is a registered NPC), please email Afrika Tikkun Agriculture CEO, Alan Fleming - alanf@afrikatikkun.org

Prevention can outsmart pests and diseases

Successful pest and disease management depends on scouting and monitoring crops. **Magda du Toit** spoke to a major citrus producer, as well as pest-control experts from various organisations.

ABOVE: Clive Lacock, head of integrated pest management at the Mahela Group says the best way for farmers to know if they need to implement control measures is to scout for pests where they are likely to be found.

ABOVE RIGHT: Donald Madihlaba scouts citrus trees on one of the Mahela Group's farms near Letsitele.
PHOTOS: MAHELA GROUP

FAST FACTS

Workers should be trained to go through orchards and look for and identify pests.

Farmers need to take appropriate action when insects become resistant to insecticides.

Careful management is required to keep the cost of pest control in check.

Plant pests and diseases can affect the health and growth of crops as well as reduce a farmer's profitability. Most producers understand the critical importance of monitoring the spread of diseases in humans, but the same principle needs to be applied to plant pests and diseases. It is essential for farmers to deal with them effectively and in good time. Nonetheless, the list of harmful pests and diseases can make this a daunting task.

Many experts agree that the best way for farmers to know if they need to implement control measures is to look for pests or diseases where they are likely to be found. Plant monitoring is therefore seen as one of the most important managerial tasks in any farming environment, because correct prevention is better than a hasty cure.

Nadine Botha, technical field services representative at Insectec, says that farming practices are increasingly driven by the trend towards implementing sustainable agriculture and ensuring a lower impact on the environment.

"An integrated pest management (IPM) system offers a combination of biological, cultural, physical and chemical control methods to manage pests and diseases sustainably," she says.

According to Hiresh Ramanand, stewardship coordinator at CropLife South Africa (CropLife SA), the organisation firmly believes that pest monitoring, whether for weeds, disease or insects, forms the basis of any IPM programme.

REGULAR MONITORING

"Regular monitoring enables farmers or their scouts to gather accurate, up-to-date information on the identity and location of pests, and the extent of infestation and damage based on threshold levels relative to the monitoring techniques employed. This ensures that farmers are well informed on the health of their crops. The information collected from monitoring enables farmers to make decisions as to whether corrective action, generally in the form of pesticide, is required."

Ramanand adds that regular monitoring enables a farmer to apply chemicals only when required, rather than following a rigid spraying programme based on calendar dates.

"A monitoring programme helps to reduce production costs due to more effective use of inputs such as crop protection products."

Ivan Claassen, technical information specialist at Viking Marketing, emphasises that proper monitoring should be part of any IPM strategy.

"After introducing a monitoring system and training scouts, farmers often complain about certain types of insects they've never had on their farms. But in most cases this is because they never looked for these pests and diseases in the past!" says Claassen.

He adds that monitoring is a tool that helps the farmer or IPM controller to time spray applications far more precisely.

"Proper monitoring also helps with the efficacy of the products used. Many chemical products specifically target eggs, larvae or adult insects. Through monitoring, the farmer can determine the life cycle stage of the pest and make calculated decisions on product choice as well as application time."

Claassen adds that Viking uses software applications to assist with scouting and provides real-time data to assist farmers and their technical teams.

"We offer in-house training to equip scouts with the necessary tools and information to identify various insects as well as life cycles. We also train them in scouting principles so that they know how, when and where to look for pests and diseases."

Gerrie Ludick, crop-protection specialist at InteliGro, says: "Each member in the crop production value chain has a stewardship responsibility and should take it to heart. For example, the input supplier needs to provide sufficient and current information on product applications. Training also forms part of this responsibility. InteliGro hosts application workshops across South Africa to address practical field challenges. This includes monitoring of pests and diseases and the correct and safe application of corrective measures."

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Botha identifies the major components of an IPM programme as:

- Monitoring pests and crop damage continually;
- Identifying pests accurately;
- Determining the pest infestation level;
- Establishing the threshold levels in order to decide on the action is needed and when to act;
- Employing appropriate prevention methods;
- Implementing a combination of biological, cultural, physical and chemical control methods; and
- Evaluating the effect of pest management actions.

Botha points out that insect damage can occur throughout the growing season, but seedlings and young trees are most at risk. "A monitoring programme throughout the season enables the farmer to manage his practices and prevent serious crop damage. Correct identification of insect pests is necessary in order to avoid economic loss and retain beneficial insects."

According to Ramanand, record-keeping is critical for two reasons. Firstly, keeping records over time of all observations helps farmers make informed decisions pertaining to their management strategies, allowing for adjustments where necessary. Secondly, these records, combined with weather data, can be useful in predicting infestation patterns in following seasons. "Given the current [weak] South African economy and problems at Eskom, farmers need to be smarter in how they do business. Decisions must be informed by data and evidence in order to save on costs in all facets. CropLife SA encourages farmers to monitor pests and keep well-managed records in order to maintain crop protection costs at sustainable levels," says Ramanand.

Clive Lacock is in charge of IPM at Mahela Group, a third-generation fruit and livestock farming business in Limpopo. He says historical records of infestation periods are of great value to understanding why certain control measures were not effective.

"There's often a correlation between the infection period and gaps in the chosen control programme. This is where record-keeping can be of value."

> ***'MONITORING THROUGHOUT THE SEASON WILL ENABLE A FARMER TO MANAGE THE CROP BETTER AND PREVENT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO IT'***

Lacock says visual inspection of individual plants when monitoring a crop is important. These methods and tools include:

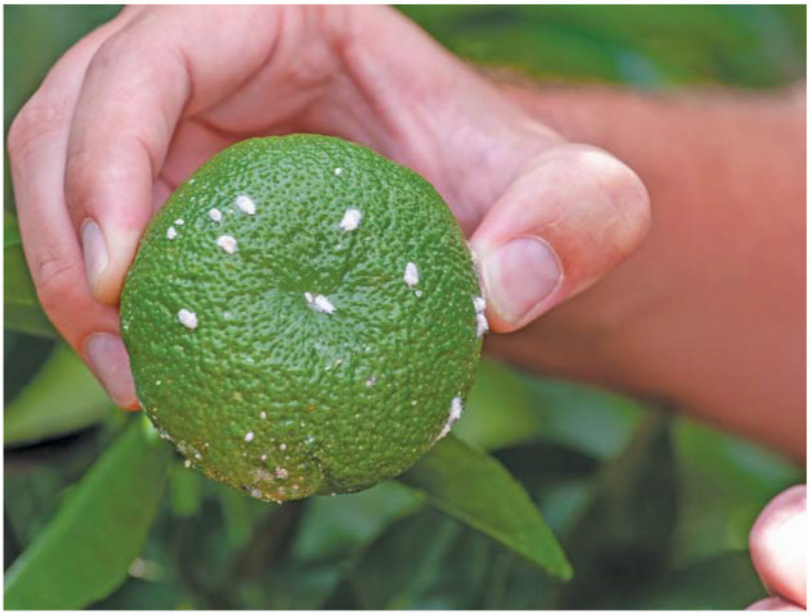
- Using a good hand lens to look for small insects and identify pests;
- Physically observing the crop, environment and soil;
- Placing traps in trees or on the ground;
- Using a sweep net. It is suitable for pests such as aphids, budworm and weevils, but is not useful for counting eggs. The net is effective for finding insects in the crop canopy;
- Shaking individual plants onto paper or sheets to collect insects. A length of light-coloured plastic or material can be placed between rows or under the plants, after which the plants can be shaken over the sheet or bag. The insects can be collected into a container for identification and counting. Individual plants can also be pulled out and then shaken over the sheet of paper or material or over a bucket or sweep net; and
- Employing insect traps for monitoring insects flying at night.

"Close examination of plants will be necessary when dealing with very small insects, especially those that live on or near the soil. It might be necessary to crawl under the canopy among the leaf litter," Lacock advises. "Some pests are difficult to find, especially those that attack plant roots, so check below as well as above ground. Others may only emerge at night, so appropriate methods for observation must be chosen."

He says the method will be determined by:

- The stage of crop development;
- The stage of the insect's life cycle;
- The type of crop being monitored;
- The particular pest being monitored; and
- The time of day at which you monitor.

Botha says that it is important to interpret the results obtained from the insect scouting exercise. "If insects are identified, farmers must determine whether or not the crop is likely to suffer further damage."



ABOVE: Damage caused by the citrus mealybug (*Planococcus citri*) on a tangerine. The mealybug produces large quantities of honeydew, which can turn black with the growth of a sooty mould fungus.

She says further factors to be considered when deciding whether the pest should be controlled include environmental conditions, the level of natural predators or parasites present, and the cost of various control methods.

"At Insectec we provide insect scouting, monitoring and identification training," says Botha.

DIFFERENT AGENTS CAUSING PLANT DISEASE

Disease monitoring is not always easy, as a number of agents can cause plant disease, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects and even parasitic plants. Ludick says that disease can also rapidly spread by transferring from one host to the next.

In addition, pathogen-related food losses reduce the quantity and quality of food crops, and become a threat to food security due to decreased yield as well as food wastage.

"Early detection by way of monitoring in combination with timely and accurate diagnostics is important in plant pathology. The implementation of efficient and affordable methods for detecting and monitoring plant diseases can greatly facilitate plant protection," says Ludick.

"As many insects act as vectors for plant diseases, insect monitoring can also help with disease identification. The symptoms of most plant diseases are discernible in parts of a plant such as the leaves, stem, roots and fruit. Identification and diagnosis of the disease can thus be done from the leaf, stem, roots or fruit and by collecting and identifying the insects."

He adds that early-stage detection is important to prevent yield losses. "Monitoring of plants and diseases at the initial stage is of the utmost importance, as this can help prevent yield or plant loss on a bigger scale and allow early remedial actions."

Christian Giesel, head of marketing at Syngenta South Africa, says that the application of crop protection products should also form part of a farmer's IPM programme. He points out that Syngenta launched a revolutionary application that enables farmers not only to choose the correct time to apply crop protection products, but also to help them select the optimal water volume and most appropriate nozzle to avoid drift.

Giesel says effective and optimal spraying depends on:

- Informed application and spraying decisions;
- Efficient application of products with a low impact on the environment; and
- Optimal performance and maximum efficiency of the crop protection products.

RESISTANCE MONITORING

Managing resistance in weeds and insect pests in crops is an important part of IPM practices.

Elriza Theron, marketing and communications manager at CropLife SA, says the best early-warning system for resistance development in insects or weeds is proper monitoring of expected control.

"Farmers or their staff are the people who visit the lands most often and are generally on the lookout for performance issues. If there's any problem with a product, it's extremely important to inform the company marketing it as speedily as possible."

Monitoring usually involves field surveys to collect seed from potentially pesticide-resistant weeds. These collected seeds can then be tested under controlled conditions to confirm or refute resistance. When resistant weed populations are discovered, steps can be taken to reduce the impact on the crop.

The same applies to suspected insect resistance to insecticides. During monitoring and scouting, insects can be collected and sent for testing.

"Mitigation procedures can reduce the further spread and development of resistance," Theron adds.

ACHIEVING THE BEST PACKOUT RATE

Pieter Vorster, director at Mahela Group, says pest and disease monitoring is critical on citrus and other fruit farms, especially for exporters. He adds that there are many phytosanitary requirements that farmers need to adhere to and that they cannot afford to be slack when it comes to pest and disease management.

"Although pest and disease monitoring and control in orchards is a season-long challenge, it's also a crucial managerial practice on any fruit farm, especially with a view to exporting. Monitoring goes much further than just looking for pests and diseases in trees.

"We also look at low-hanging and dead branches, weeds, damage to orchards done by animals such as baboons or porcupines, as well as irrigation-related aspects in an orchard."

Lacock points out that all fruit farmers aspire to send the cleanest and healthiest fruit to the packing facility in order to realise the best packout percentage of their fruit.

"If you don't monitor and act timeously to prevent certain infestations, you'll not only have a lower yield and a financial loss, but you as an individual farmer may also have an impact on the sustainability of the entire South African citrus export industry.

"It's expensive to control the various pests and diseases in orchards. Only through proper and continual monitoring can we manage the cost. If you don't act in good time, you may create the ideal situation for certain pests to multiply and become a permanent feature."

He adds that digital monitoring enables Mahela to keep accurate record of critical aspects and ensure that disease control is not done blindly.

"We use the digital system on various pests and keep records of infestation numbers, time of infestation and control methods. The historical data help us to predict possible future infestations and with the overall seasonal planning and on-farm IPM strategy."

Lacock adds that good monitoring practices and prompt identification of possible issues also enable the farm managers to timeously inform the harvesting and packhouse teams regarding possibly postponing harvesting, or the expectation of smaller or bigger fruit.

"All of these aspects have a major impact on the operational planning in the business, and one miscalculation can have a major impact on the profitability at the end of the season."

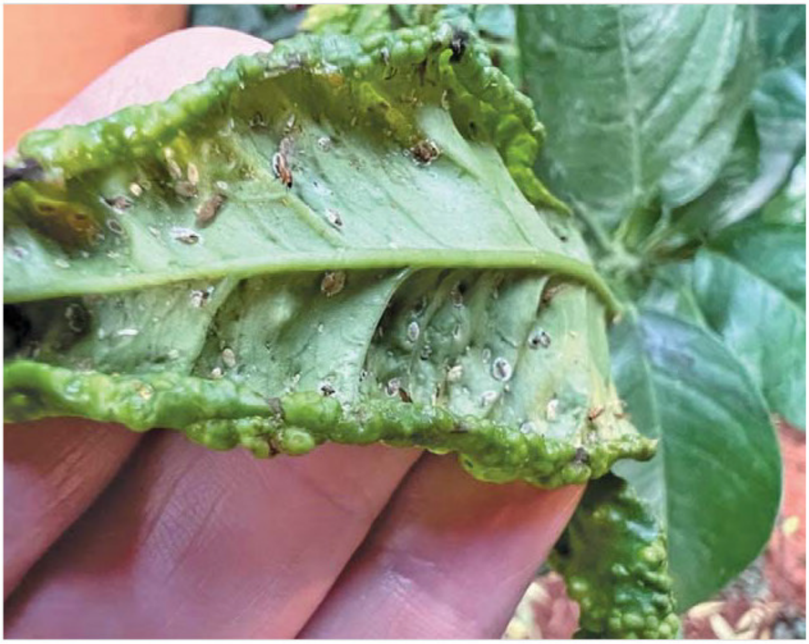
WEED CONTROL

Lacock says weed control forms an important part of Mahela's pest management programme.

"Some pests use weeds and low-lying branches as pathways to climb onto the trees. Ants, for instance, hinder the activity of the natural predators that we use in biological pest control. One of the most effective ways to stop ants from climbing onto trees is to prune the low branches near the soil surface and to ensure that the areas around the base of the trees are weedless.

"In addition, dead branches can scratch the outer surface of the fruit, and although this causes cosmetic damage, the fruit cannot be exported."

He says their scouting teams go through the orchards at least twice a week and are on the lookout for various production aspects.



ABOVE: The citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) is an important pest of citrus trees, and the sap-sucking bugs are often seen on young plants. Trees damaged by this pest can be identified by malformed new growth, or swollen bubbles and dents on leaves.

"Our digital platform forms the base of our scouting programme. After each scouting session, certain hotspots can be identified and we can act to address the problems.

"Poor weed control can also result in water and nutrient competition in the root zone, and this is especially important when establishing new orchards."

Lacock points out that certain diseases, such as *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*, occur on trees with poor root development, especially those growing in heavier soils. "We regularly scout for *Phytophthora* and *Citrus* nematodes and send samples to the laboratory for analysis. With knowledge, we can act timeously and appropriately," he says.

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Living off the land, thanks to diversification

Producing a variety of crops and livestock has enabled **Tabby Robertshaw** and her partner to realise their dream of homesteading. She spoke to **Glenneis Kriel** about the hard work they have put into the venture.

1

2

3

GOODLUCK HOMESTEAD
GOODLUCK HOMESTEAD
GOODLUCK HOMESTEAD
GOODLUCK HOMESTEAD

4

LEFT:
Tabby Robertshaw is the proud owner of the Goodluck Homestead brand.

OPPOSITE PAGE:
1: Various types of mobile houses are used for the chickens.

2: Static compost heaps are made from materials collected on the farm.

3: A variety of berries, including blueberries, are grown in the fruit and vegetable garden.

4: Some of the processed produce sold under the Goodluck Homestead brand.
PHOTOS: GLENNEIS KRIEL

Tabby Robertshaw and her partner, Alex Chouler, are experienced homesteaders who have long sought complete self-sufficiency. Today, they live and work on rented land near Stanford in the Western Cape, where they produce a variety of organic vegetables, fruit, salad greens and meat, and sell it under their Goodluck Homestead brand at local markets and restaurants and via WhatsApp groups. They also produce all the food they require for themselves, except for breakfast cereals.

The couple moved to the current farm, Vaalvlei, a year and a half ago after spending 10 years on their previous property, where they used to make enough money to live on. The move, however, has required major investments in infrastructure and soil improvement.

'EVERYTHING ON THE FARM IS GIVEN FOUR YEARS TO SEE IF IT WILL BECOME A VIABLE INCOME STREAM'

To boost their income, they built guest accommodation in December last year, and Robertshaw believes this will make the farm financially viable. She also presents self-sufficiency workshops such as food gardening and food processing. Her most recent workshop focused on the production of fermented butter and kimchi.

"We're setting up the farm to have more space for workshops," she says.

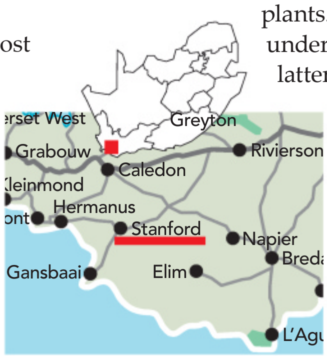
FARMING PHILOSOPHY

Vaalvlei covers 50ha, with 0,5ha under vegetables and salad greens, and 3ha under Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc vineyards. The rest of the land is used as pasture, or is destined for that purpose.

Their wine grapes are delivered to a local winemaker who repays the value in bottles of wine. "The wine is great, but we have to rethink the agreement, because we're still in the process of applying for a liquor licence and can't sell the wine just yet," says Robertshaw.

She adds that the vineyard is the most expensive of their enterprises to maintain, with costs driven up by the need for special farming equipment such as a tractor and spray tank.

In addition, they are converting the vineyard from a traditional one managed with fertilisers and pesticides to an organic operation. This has necessitated expensive soil correction and large quantities of inputs to improve soil health.



"We had good harvests last season and this season is looking excellent. But there's no sentimentality here! Everything we produce is given four years to see if it becomes a viable income stream. If it doesn't make money by then, it's scrapped," says Robertshaw.

The exception is her vegetable garden, which includes a variety of heirlooms and interesting crossbreeds, as well as crops such as salad greens, herbs, berries, olives and passion fruit.

"The vegetable garden is more of a passion project. We produce everything we need at home, sell the surplus on the local markets, and give the 'ugly' and 'damaged' produce to our pigs. It's not really a money-spinner. Then again, it probably is saving us a lot of money, considering the price you have to pay for vegetables and salads in the shops these days."

She adds that it is necessary to have a vegetable garden in order to go 'full cycle' and become self-sustaining. The different plants are rotated and mixed in the planting beds to prevent a build-up of diseases, with plantings carefully planned to take advantage of neighbouring plants. Beans, for example, might be undersown with maize to enable the latter to take advantage of the nitrogen produced by the beans.

Their produce is organic, but not organically certified. Robertshaw says that it is not the cost of certification that is discouraging, but the amount of additional work, administration and record-keeping that goes with it.

FAST FACTS

Tabby Robertshaw and Alex Chouler produce meat, vegetables and fruit on rented land near Stanford in the Western Cape.

The farm follows organic production principles, but is not certified organic.

Surplus food is sold via WhatsApp, on markets and to restaurants.

"A small business like ours simply doesn't have the time or capacity to take on all the additional admin associated with organic certification.

"We farm organically for ourselves, because it's healthier and we want to leave the soil in a better condition for the next generation. Our market doesn't have a problem with the fact that we're not certified, as we've built a relationship with them over the years and they've come to trust us."

MEAT PRODUCTION

Meat is also on the menu, with goats, rabbits, pigs, chickens, and a few Dexter cattle being farmed on Vaalvlei. The goats, chicken and pigs consist of a mix of indigenous breeds, and Robertshaw, over time, has selected animals based on their hardiness. This she defines as the ability to thrive outdoors with as few inputs as possible.

The number of rabbits is maintained at around 50, depending on the demand for meat.

"I used to keep a specific breed, but I've since mixed them up to produce specific-coloured pelts, for which I've also secured a market," she says.

ABOVE: The rabbits are produced in colonies, as this is more natural than rearing them in cages.

ABOVE RIGHT: The pigs are raised outside, and their diet is augmented with spent grain and commercial rations.

There are two types of rabbit farming, explains Robertshaw. The first, battery farming, entails placing the rabbits in small cages on top of one another.

"This is unnatural and increases the stress levels of the animals, which in turn renders them more vulnerable to diseases, some of which can wipe them out overnight," she says.

She prefers 'colony rearing', a production approach that mimics the way rabbits live in the wild. To this end, three does are kept in each pen, which measures 3m x 3m. The fencing is sunk about 1m deep to prevent the rabbits from escaping. Left to their own devices, the rabbits dig burrows, which enable them to stay warm in winter and cool in summer, and breed in comfort throughout the year.

Only one buck is used. It is kept with a group of does for two months before being rotated to another pen. Does produce three to four offspring in their first breeding season, and between six and 12 thereafter. They have a gestation period of a month and can fall pregnant mere days after kindling, enabling them to produce more than seven litters a year.

Robertshaw slows down reproduction, however, by keeping the buck separate when there are too many rabbits on the farm.

"I also think the does might need a break before they reproduce again, but I don't know what they think about that!" she says.

Does are culled once their production starts to decline, usually when they are four to five years old. There is strong demand for them on the meat market, according to Robertshaw, as they have more fat than the rabbits she sells at six to eight months of age.

The rabbits live off garden waste such as weeds, cabbages, broccoli and banana leaves, sugar cane and carrot tops.

"They don't cost us anything except for the initial pen infrastructure," says Robertshaw.

Comfrey leaves are added periodically to the rabbits' feed as it is a "good medicine for everyone", but the best way of ensuring the rabbits' health is to provide a varied diet, she says.

Robertshaw notes that government issued a warning towards the end of last year about the outbreak of rabbit haemorrhagic disease, which was causing high rabbit and hare mortalities in the Northern and Western Cape. She feels, however, that her rabbits are out of danger, as they are produced inside pens that limit their exposure to disease-carrying agents such as wild rabbits and people who might have been in contact with sick rabbits.

GOATS

Forty goats, consisting of purebred and mixed Boer goats, indigenous veld goats and speckled (*skilder*) goats, are run on Vaalvlei.

"The indigenous breeds are resistant to parasites and don't have any bloating issues when they're on a varied diet. We do have to vaccinate them, though, against botulism and cheesy gland [*Caseous lymphadenitis*]," says Robertshaw.

The goats live off the veld and are given a lick to ensure they receive essential minerals and salts.

"They're quite easy to farm, with each ewe producing twins last breeding season. The only problem is that they don't respect fences. Ours haven't been too troublesome, but we've had to go and fetch them at the neighbour a couple of times."

The goats are raised primarily for meat, but are also milked by hand, with three goats milked per lactation. "Boer goats don't have a lot of milk, but it's very rich, with the same amount of butterfat as that of Jersey cows," says Robertshaw.

PIGS

Like the rabbits and goats, the pigs on the farm are reared outside. Robertshaw recalls that they started out by putting a Sandveld Red sow to an Iberian Wild Boar cross, and today puts some of the offspring (five mixed sows) to a different boar.

The piglets are sold to other farms or finished for the meat market, with Robertshaw also adding value to the meat by making charcuterie.

An added advantage of the pigs is that they help to clear areas planned for pasture, and fertilise the soil with their manure and urine.

> ***'RUNNING A FARM IS NOT LIKE A REGULAR JOB, WHERE YOU CAN SWITCH OFF AFTER 5PM; YOU HAVE TO BE ALERT AND READY TO ACT'***

Robertshaw explains that the pigs are not yet wholly 'free range', as their feed is still supplemented with commercial premixed rations and spent grain sourced from a local brewery. Her aim, however, is to establish pastures for the pigs, subdividing them into small grazing areas to enable rotational grazing. This will allow for recovery of the pasture and help prevent a build-up of parasites.

POULTRY

The chickens on Vaalvlei, which are of mixed variety, are moved across the farm in mobile housing, and serve a number of purposes. They help to lower the populations of fruit fly and other pests, and also improve soil health and fertility.

"These are farm chickens in the true sense of the word," says Robertshaw. "They don't get fed, and it's a bonus when we get eggs from them!"

There are also a few ducks on the farm that are useful for keeping slug and snail populations in check in the fruit and vegetable garden.

Robertshaw says they tried to farm turkeys, but ultimately gave up this enterprise. The birds, she explains, breed well once they are adults, but the hens make poor mothers.

"Turkeys make huge nests that are difficult to find, and some chicks die because they struggle to get out of the nest. The few chicks that are left often die from diseases like pneumonia or fall over and can't get up, and then die in the sun."

To overcome these problems, Robertshaw hatched a number of turkey chicks artificially. All went well until the chicks were allowed to go outside: every chick ended up being caught by a predator.

"We hardly have any such problems with the others animals on the farm, so turkeys obviously taste better than the rest," she says wryly.

SOIL HEALTH

Like most farmers, the couple recognise the importance of healthy, fertile soil, so were taken aback by the state of the soil at Vaalvlei when they first arrived. Robertshaw recalls that it resembled white sea sand. To address the problem, they applied Restore, a mixture of biochar and chicken manure, in the pastures, vineyards and vegetable gardens.

"Biochar helps to improve soil structure and improves the availability of carbon and other nutrients. And the chicken manure slowly releases macro- and micronutrients," she explains.

She also makes on-farm compost from the manure of the animals and waste from the vegetable garden. Rabbit manure, she adds, has higher nutrient levels than poultry manure, and can be used as is in the vegetable garden without scorching the plants.

A number of compost heaps on the farm are not turned or inoculated, as the manure contains enough living organisms. The larger compost heaps, however, are turned regularly and sprayed with trichoderma to accelerate decomposition.

Compost is applied to the vegetable beds at the start of the season and then topped up with Restore when the beds are changed.

"This approach has greatly improved our soil. It's now teeming with life," says Robertshaw

While enjoying their lifestyle and pleased at what they have achieved, she admits that homesteading is far from easy.

"We worked overseas for seven years to help us finance this dream, and have to work until late each night to make it happen. Running a farm is not like a regular job, where you can switch off after 5pm. You have to be constantly alert and ready to act when the animals need you or things break."

Email Tabby Robertshaw at info@vaalvlei.co.za. **FW**

TOP:
A few ducks are kept on the farm to help keep snails and slugs in check in the vegetable garden.

ABOVE:
Robertshaw employs companion planting (mixing different plants in the same area) to improve the soil and prevent the build-up of diseases.

Perseverance: the key to stud-farming success

Bonsmara stud manager **Sizo Tshabalala** believes there is a lesson to be learnt from every challenge. He spoke to **Lindi Botha** about how his passion for farming and determination to succeed have helped him overcome every obstacle he has faced on his journey to achieving his agricultural dreams.

When asked what his biggest farming challenge is, Sizo Tshabalala, stud manager at Gubuda Bonsmaras in eManzana, Mpumalanga, laughs, shakes his head and says: "I don't have difficult days; I love farming. Every challenge is simply an exciting opportunity to solve a puzzle."

It is this infectious enthusiasm that has seen Tshabalala rise from every setback he has experienced to become the successful farmer he is today. And it is his approach to problem-solving in particular that landed him a job running the Gubuda Stud for Dr Absalom Nkosi, a part-time farmer from Cape Town.

BELOW: Sizo Tshabalala, manager of Gubuda Bonsmaras Stud, brims with passion for farming.
PHOTOS: LINDI BOTHA

GUBUDA BONSMARAS Pty (Ltd)
EST 2017

"Dr Nkosi has been a family friend for many years. He wanted to employ someone he knew, and someone whose passion for farming was evident. You shouldn't employ a herder who herds cattle by throwing rocks at them or hitting them with a stick.

"A farmer or farm manager must *want* to farm, and must care about the animals. There are so many challenges in farming; if you don't love the whole lifestyle, you shouldn't be a farmer, because the challenges will get you down. You must be fully invested, and I can honestly say that I am," explains Tshabalala.

STEEP LEARNING CURVES

Tshabalala always knew he wanted to be involved in farming in some way or another. So when he matriculated, he looked at the agricultural degrees available and settled on animal production.

After graduating in 2010, he did an internship at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, travelling with extension officers to visit farmers and advise them on best practices.

"I loved this part of the job – going out into the countryside, breathing in the fresh air and walking among the animals. The farmers were all so happy doing what they were doing, but I'd have to go back to the office and sit behind a desk.

"I became increasingly aware of how the people in the office would complain about their jobs and the money they made, while the farmers were out there tackling their challenges with gusto, not complaining about the work."

When his internship came to an end and no permanent job was forthcoming, Tshabalala decided to stay on in the position as a volunteer, with the hope of being employed eventually.

This turned out to be a big learning opportunity, as he quickly realised he would have to work even harder to be able to impress his peers enough to be taken seriously as an employee.

"I knew I needed to absorb all the information I possibly could and use every opportunity to

ABOVE: Calving takes place between October and December, when the veld is in peak condition and provides ample grazing.

make the most of this time, because I wasn't getting paid. But eventually I realised that although I was learning a lot, what I really wanted was to be out in the field, so I took the plunge, bought a piece of land and started farming."

However, it turned out to be an even tougher lesson for Tshabalala, and he admits that he failed at just about everything he tried.

'BY KNOWING WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR HERD, WE KNOW OUR POTENTIAL AND WHERE WE NEED TO IMPROVE'

"At one stage I had a small herd of Boer goats, of which 43 were pregnant ewes. But 39 aborted, resulting in 76 kids that died from chlamydia. It was devastating! So I sold the herd and tried vegetable production instead, but was wiped out by the drought.

"I kept failing, but I learnt something from every failure, and despite the hardships, I still enjoyed farming and kept at it."

Tshabalala's first success came when he started producing eggs in 2020, from where he worked his way up to the 13 500 eggs he now produces daily.

In 2021, he took up the position of manager of the Gubuda herd. What started as a commercial herd of mixed-breed cattle now includes a Bonsmara stud to add favourable traits to the commercial animals, and provide neighbouring farmers with good breeding bulls.

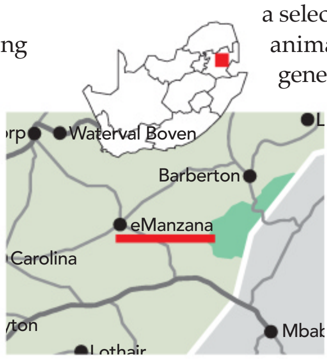
SELECTION AND BREEDING

The stud consists of 450 cattle, of which eight are bulls and 250 are breeding cows. If any specific traits are not already present in the herd but need to be added to it, semen is bought in and cows are artificially inseminated.

Traits that Tshabalala specifically looks for include smaller calves that develop into heavy weaners, good muscling, good milk production, a shorter inter-calving period (ICP), and sturdy cattle with good top lines. He notes that smaller calves are especially important in order to guard against birthing complications. The stud's average birthweight is about 28kg.

The breeding season starts in January with a selection process to determine which animals will be mated and which genetics need to be brought into the herd. Special care is taken to avoid mating related animals.

Cows are synchronised to come on heat simultaneously, and are artificially inseminated in February. Cows that come on heat later, and those that fail to conceive in the first round, are inseminated again in April.



FAST FACTS

Bonsmara stud manager Sizo Tshabalala sees setbacks as essential learning curves.

He strives for a good balance of specific genetic traits in the stud.

Phase D testing is used to guide selection processes prior to breeding.

ABOVE: Gubuda Bonsmara bulls have good adaptability, and produce smaller calves that grow into heavy weaners.

All female animals are placed with follow-up bulls in camps after they have been inseminated.

The ICP is between 360 and 380 days, and this is an aspect that Tshabalala is trying to improve. Any female animal that skips a breeding cycle is culled.

GRAZING AND SUPPLEMENTS

Calving season takes place between October and December, at which time the veld is in top condition and ample grazing is available.

"Cattle are supposed to eat grass, not your pocket," says Tshabalala. "Calves must get used to the veld conditions as soon as possible so that they maintain condition through grazing, not bought-in feed.

"In-calf cows are given supplements, but otherwise they live solely on the veld. It's therefore also important for the calves to be weaned by May, as lactating cows can't survive on the winter veld alone, and it's very expensive to feed them."

The current stocking rate is 6ha/MLU, but the plan is to reduce this to ensure better veld usage. "Our camps are too big, so the cattle graze selectively, which isn't good for the veld in the long run. We're in the process of reducing the camp size so that we can rotate the cattle faster and allow them to graze all of the grass in a camp."

Calves are weaned when they are between nine and 12 months old, and a weaning rate of 95% is achieved. As the calves are susceptible to disease during weaning, they are given an immune booster to keep them in good health.

Keeping stress at bay is also important, and Tshabalala ensures that weaners have ample access to feed and clean water, and moves them as little as possible.

Keeping the calves out of sight of their dams helps them to adapt faster. "The weaners get stressed if they see their mothers in the camp next door, but can't get to them. If they do, they start to ram up against the fences, injuring themselves and damaging fences."

He notes that the Bonsmara is highly adaptable, which was one reason why this breed was chosen for the farm.

"There's a lot of heartwater in our area, but we find that the Bonsmara copes well. When we started the herd, they adapted quickly and have passed on their resistance to heartwater to the next generation. The animals that *did* contract heartwater obviously couldn't be used for further breeding, so their weaker genes weren't included in the herd."

PERFORMANCE TESTING

The cattle are put through Phase D performance testing before being used for breeding.

"These tests ultimately determine whether our cattle will perform in the feedlot, which is the whole purpose of cattle production," explains Tshabalala.

"During the tests, feed conversion rates are determined, and the cattle are inspected by the breed society and given body condition scores. The maximum score is nine, and animals with seven or more are either kept or sold, while those with scores below seven are culled to ensure that only the best animals are used for breeding. This is important to maintain the high standard of the breed."

'THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES IN FARMING; IF YOU DON'T LOVE THE WHOLE LIFESTYLE, YOU SHOULDN'T BE A FARMER'

Another reason for testing, he adds, is to give their stud credibility amongst potential clients.

"Farmers who purchase our breeding animals must be assured that the animals will add value to their commercial herds and produce the [highest] volume of beef.

"Because we know what's in our herd, we know what our potential is, and where we need to improve to achieve better stud animals.

"It also helps our bottom line, because it's inefficient to keep underperforming animals that require more resources to produce the same amount of beef as those that eat less."

The breed society also inspects female animals. If they don't make the grade for the stud, they are placed in the commercial herd and grown out for beef.

Gubuda Bonsmaras regularly hosts farmers' days, where local producers can learn more about cattle production. These days take place when the cattle have their final Phase D inspection, so that the farmers can see first-hand what good bulls should look like.

Tshabalala says farmers' days hold great value, as it is far better to see inspections as they happen than to read about how cattle should be farmed.

THE QUEST FOR BALANCE

Running a successful cattle stud requires a keen eye for balancing genetic traits to obtain the ideal bull. For Tshabalala, this means being careful not to overcorrect a trait or get caught up in fads that result in unnatural-looking animals.

"When you look at breeding values, certain traits have higher values than others. Chasing after a higher value in one particular area means you are taking away from other areas, which could be detrimental if the values don't balance out.

"For example, double muscling in bulls seemed to be 'in fashion' a few years ago. These bulls were 'it', and they would grace the covers of magazines. But when we bred these bulls, we found that their calves were too big and the dams struggled during birth, so now I look for balance."

He stresses the importance of looking at a bull's entire history, rather than judging it solely on appearance.

"I've seen the most beautiful bulls produce ugly calves; it's an expensive mistake to make. Stud breeding is a marathon, not a sprint. It takes a long time to build a good herd, and mistakes in selection cost extra time.

"Stud breeding can also be compared with making a pan in which to bake a cake. We shape and mould the pan, and the commercial producer buys the pan so that they can make a product that takes on the shape of that pan.

"The ultimate test for you as a stud breeder is whether the commercial farmers who buy your bulls achieve success in breeding them, producing progeny that look like the stud."

Tshabalala says that solving challenges and finding the best way forward are part and parcel of farming, and he finds them invigorating.

"If you wake up every morning with a problem-solving mentality, then farming will become an exciting challenge and a joy," he adds.

Email Sizo Tshabalala at tshabalalafoods@gmail.com. **FW**

BELOW:
Calves are weaned when they are between nine and 12 months old.

Explaining the January 2023 drought 'anomaly'

Dr Johan Malherbe, a researcher in soil, climate and water at the Agricultural Research Council, explores the effect of a very dry January on the rest of the planting season.

This January was very dry over most of north-eastern South Africa, including a large part of the summer-grain production region. Very little to no rain fell between 5 and 29 January over the northern half of the grain-production region in particular.

These conditions highlighted the absolute dependence of dryland maize cultivation on regular and adequate rainfall during summer.

With 2022/23 the third consecutive summer during which La Niña conditions dominated global atmospheric circulation patterns, the negative effects of too much rain, such as waterlogged lands, have been much more in the news than the negative effects associated with drought.

La Niña is the colder counterpart of El Niño in the broader El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate pattern, leading to intense storms in some places and droughts in others.

Historically, though, the limiting effect of drought on maize production far outweighs that of too much rain. This was demonstrated during the 2015/16 drought when maize production dropped by roughly 40% relative to the previous summer.

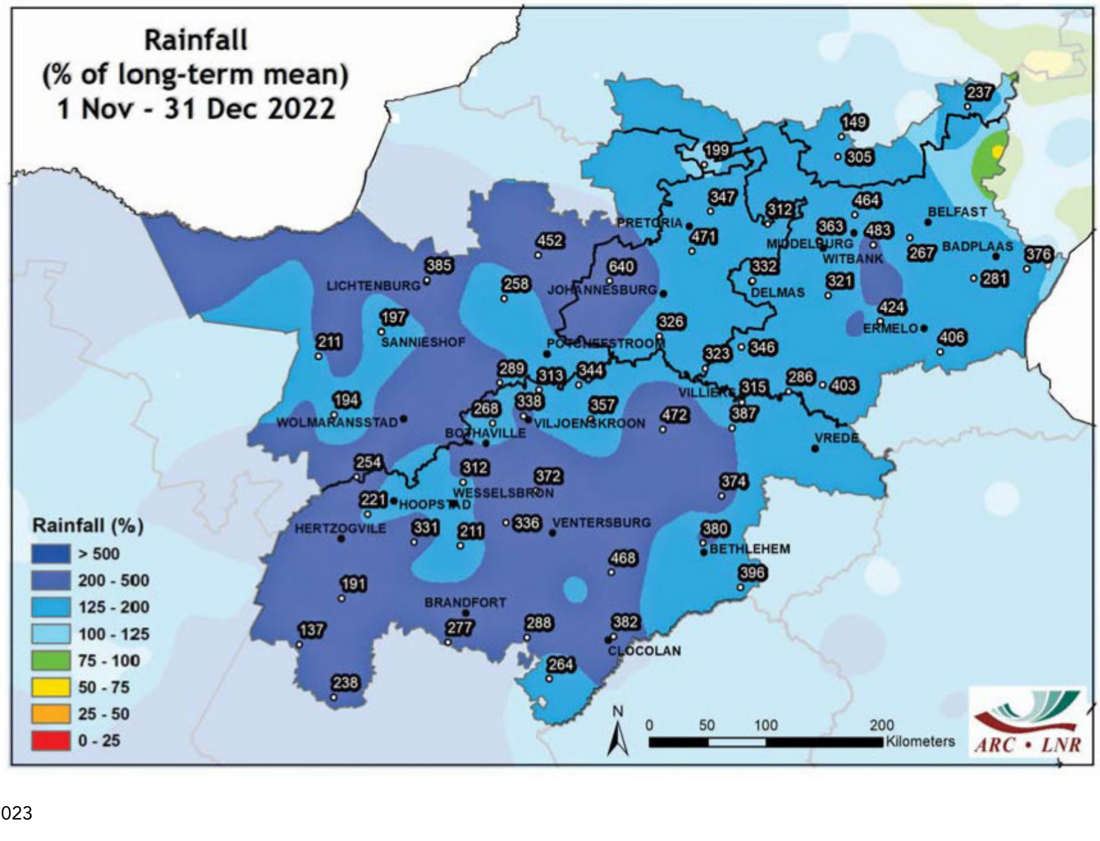
The dry conditions in January occurred during an otherwise wet summer. Rainfall over the summer-grain production region was significantly above the long-term mean (*see Figure 1*). However, sunny and dry conditions set in from early January and continued until 29 January over the northern half of the region, when scattered thundershowers returned.

Despite the return of rainfall to most of the region, total rainfall for the month fell dismally short of the long-term mean (*see Figure 2*).

Following the mostly dry conditions during January, the favourable conditions that set in from late January may remain in place, bringing an end to the dry period. This will also limit any negative effects associated with the low rainfall during the month.

MIDSUMMER DROUGHT

Seasonal forecasts, influenced by the current La Niña event in the Tropical Pacific Ocean, have consistently remained positive for above-normal rainfall through the summer. Often referred to as a midsummer drought, such dry conditions during


Rainfall
(% of long-term mean)
1 Nov - 31 Dec 2022
Rainfall (%)
> 500
200 - 500
125 - 200
100 - 125
75 - 100
50 - 75
25 - 50
0 - 25
LICHTENBURG
SANNIESHOF
WOLMARANSSTAD
BOTHAVILLE
VILJOENSKROON
HOOPSTAD
WESSELSBRON
HERTZOGVILE
VENTERSBURG
BRANDFORT
CLOCOLAN
BETHLEHEM
VREDE
VILLIERS
POTCHEFSTROOM
JOHANNESBURG
PRETORIA
MIDDELBURG
WITBANK
DELMAS
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BADPLAAS
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396
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Kilometers
ARC • LNR

RIGHT: Figure 1: Rainfall (% of long-term mean) for 1 November to 31 December 2022, focusing on the summer-grain production region. Numbers indicate the actual accumulated rainfall in millimetres at selected locations for the period.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

late December or January are not uncommon and may occur during an otherwise wet summer.

The midsummer drought is a climatological feature that occurs over large parts of the world where summer rainfall predominates, including the central to north-eastern parts of South Africa, where our main summer-grain production region is located. The intensity (temporal distribution of rainfall events and potential evapotranspiration associated with maximum temperatures), duration and spatial extent of such dry conditions during midsummer can result in reduced production. However, negative effects are limited through conservative cultivation practices, including cultivar choice and planting density.

A LOT CAN STILL HAPPEN WEATHER-WISE THAT MAY EITHER LOWER OR ENHANCE PRODUCTION

Moreover, rainfall during the more sensitive stages of maize development in February plays a much more important role in determining final yield.

At both Lichtenburg and Middelburg (located in the west and east of the production region respectively), rainfall records indicate that at least the first 28 days of January can be characterised as extremely dry, with only about 10% to 20% of the long-term average for this period recorded this year.

At both stations, this falls into the driest 10% of years for the period since 1920. Knowing these areas experienced very dry conditions during January, it is interesting to note that historical, detrended data since 1980 for the Lichtenburg and Middelburg regions indicates that maize yields are very weakly correlated to accumulated rainfall for up to a 25-day period from late December to about 20 January.

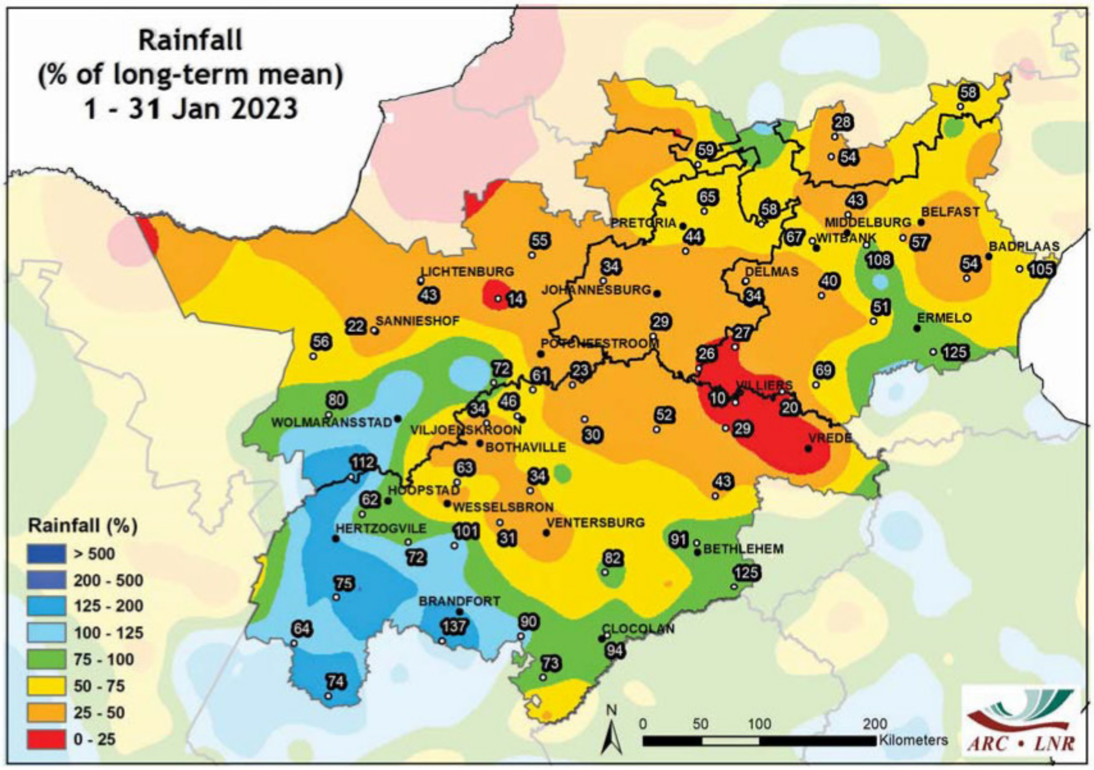
WEAK CORRELATION

The correlation between accumulated rainfall over a 25-day period, ending by late December or even by 20 January at Lichtenburg is weak compared with the much higher and significant positive correlations noted from late November to early December (closer to planting) and, again, from late January through February and early March (the production-sensitive stages of maize in the region).

At Middelburg, where the growing season for maize is earlier than in the west, significant correlations between 25-day accumulated rainfall and maize-yields are found also

ABOVE:
The midsummer drought highlighted the dependence of South Africa on dryland maize.
FW ARCHIVE

BELOW LEFT:
Figure 2: Rainfall (% of long-term mean) for January 2023, focusing on the summer-grain production region. Numbers indicated are the actual accumulated rainfall in millimetres at selected locations for the period.


Rainfall
(% of long-term mean)
1 - 31 Jan 2023
Rainfall (%)
> 500
200 - 500
125 - 200
100 - 125
75 - 100
50 - 75
25 - 50
0 - 25
PRETORIA
MIDDELBURG
BELFAST
WITBANK
BADPLAAS
LICHTENBURG
JOHANNESBURG
DELMAS
ERMELO
SANNIESHOF
POTCHEFSTROOM
VILLIERS
WOLMARANSSTAD
VILJOENSKROON
BOTHAVILLE
VREDE
HOOPSTAD
WESSELSBRON
HERTZOGVILLE
VENTERSBURG
BETHLEHEM
BRANDFORT
CLOCOLAN
N
0 50 100 200
Kilometers
ARC • LNR

FAST FACTS

January 2023 was very dry over most of north-eastern South Africa, despite wet conditions earlier in the season.

The midsummer drought is a climatological feature that occurs over large parts of the world where summer rainfall predominates.

The last few weeks of the summer rainy season are less likely to see a return of the very dry conditions that characterised much of January 2023.

closer to the planting window by late October (as well as late January to mid-February), but correlations are weak through much of December and on until late January.

With the dry conditions at Lichtenburg and Middelburg starting by late December or early January this year only, and with rain returning by late January, it can be expected that the effect of the drought will be limited to relatively small yield reductions if regular rainfall events occur through February and into March.

It is more likely that wetter conditions will remain in place during the latter part of the growing season, based on seasonal outlooks for the remainder of the rainy season as well as the behaviour of rainfall during previous La Niña summers since 1980. This holds true for both the western and eastern production regions.

ABOVE: The 2022/23 summer maize production season is far from over.
FW ARCHIVE

Based on the 15 La Niña and 13 El Niño events during the 1980-2022 period identified by the Oceanic Niño Index used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the tendency is for wetter conditions to be associated with La Niña rather than El Niño events.

At least since 1980, at both Lichtenburg and Middelburg, total 30-day accumulated rainfall by 28 February tends to be higher during La Niña summers compared with El Niño summers, the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. However, for the 30-day accumulated rainfall by 25 January the difference is much less distinct. For example, at Middelburg the inter-quartile range (75% of the values) is between 84mm and 176mm for the 30-day rainfall by 25 January during La Niña summers with a median value of 106mm. These values are similar during El Niño summers (inter-quartile range between 76mm and 134mm with a median value of 113mm).

The 30-day rainfall by 28 February, however, tended to be higher during La Niña summers than in El Niño summers: The inter-quartile range during La Niña summers is between 70mm and 149mm (38mm and 75mm for El Niño summers), while the median value during La Niña summers is 102mm (58mm during El Niño summers).

These figures suggest that during La Niña summers, such as the current summer, atmospheric circulation patterns will more likely result in normal to relatively wet conditions during February than during January.

FAR FROM OVER

The 2022/23 summer maize production season is far from over, and a lot can still happen weather-wise that may either lower or enhance production.

So far during the growing season, very wet conditions during early summer were followed by a midsummer drought lasting for most of January over a large portion of the summer-grain production region.

However, with the dry conditions mostly occurring during a period when yields are only weakly correlated with rainfall, maize yield reductions associated with water stress, though certainly present, will probably be relatively small if wetter conditions continue during the remainder of summer.

Moreover, above-normal rainfall during the preceding summers, as well as during November and December 2022 suggest above-normal plant-available water in high-potential soils, further reducing the potential negative effects of the event.

On the other hand, the midsummer drought will have depleted plant-available water, especially in more marginal areas, leaving the maize crop vulnerable should extended dry periods recur during the remainder of the summer.

Given the current La Niña event and seasonal forecasts for further wet conditions together with historical rainfall tendencies during La Niña summers since at least 1980, the last few weeks of the summer rainy season are less likely to see a return of the very dry conditions that characterised much of January 2023.

- *Email Dr Johan Malherbe at Johan@arc.agric.za. Rainfall maps by Philip Beukes, Agricultural Research Council – Soil, Climate and Water. Rainfall data from the ARC automatic weather station network; historical maize yield data from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.* **FW**

The importance of timing in your farming operation

You may know all that's necessary about growing a crop, but if your timing is off, your profits will suffer severely, says **Bill Kerr**.

If a top dressing is not applied in time, this crop will never achieve its potential. BILL KERR

Timing often separates successful farmers from those who are unsuccessful. Good farming is not just about having the requisite knowledge, but being able to implement that knowledge at the appropriate time without procrastination.

Very few farmers have not erred to some extent in this regard. I certainly have, and it cost me dearly.

When it comes to growing crops, each task needs to be done properly at the correct or optimal time.

If, for example, you need to spray a herbicide at a certain stage and you miss the window due to a flat tractor tyre, followed by a rainy spell, you may not get the desired weed control and may be forced to use another product later on, or else weed by hand. Any delay costs money.

Pest control is another task where many, including me, have procrastinated and paid the price.

Most pests are controlled more easily at a certain age. Getting this timing right can save a great deal of money.

DOCUMENT

Timing goes hand in hand with planning. After planting, document each procedure required so that you know when to apply top dressing or look for certain pests.

The safest procedure is to make notes in your day-to-day planner, which should include every crop you have planted. Alternatively, write down every crop with each procedure required on spreadsheets on your office wall so that you can glance at it each day.

Include the labour needed for each task; this will help prevent labour bottlenecks at certain times. By doing this at the planning stage, you'll quickly see where labour requirements clash and you can then reschedule crop planting accordingly.

It's easy to procrastinate due to unforeseen events, which seem to pop up almost daily. This takes our attention away from what we've planned to do.

If you don't make a note of the planned activity, it's all too easy to forget until the lack of timing has cost you with additional expenses or lower yield.

THE SAFEST WAY IS TO MAKE NOTES IN YOUR DAILY PLANNER, AND INCLUDE EVERY CROP PLANTED

Timing is particularly important when it comes to applying nitrogen to a crop. This is something you can't simply 'catch up on'. By the time you see the crop showing symptoms of nitrogen deficiency, the damage has already been done.

Not only will it be a while for the next application to be taken up by the plant, but the plant itself will have adjusted its growth to compensate for the deficiency and will be slow to be 'kick-started' again.

By this time, weeks of optimal growth will have been sacrificed, and this will be seen in the reduced yield.

Bad timing and procrastination steal your profits. Successful farming involves knowledge, experience and good timing.

Bill Kerr is a vegetable specialist and breeder. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Vegetable production. **FW**

MANAGEMENT

Tackling invasive alien plants the right way

Don't take on these weeds without careful preparation, cautions **Roelof Bezuidenhout**. They can sap your energy – and your cash.

It's probably safe to say that most farmers in South Africa have at least one species of invasive alien plant (IAP) growing on their land or dams. These plants spread rapidly and can get out of control before you know it, so you have to act quickly. But equally, you need to do some planning and budgeting beforehand.

With this in mind, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has produced a practical guide to managing IAPs. This should get you on the right track straightaway.

- **Prevent new growth**

The first step, explains the WWF, is to identify and target new species before they have a chance to set seed and spread.

Target low-density, young invasions to halt the progress of the weeds and prevent the build-up of IAP seedbanks. This is especially important in the case of fast-maturing, wind-dispersed weeds such as hakea and pine.

Leave dense, mature stands for last, as they probably will not increase in density or pose a greater threat than they do at present. Clearing these areas requires expensive, long-term follow-up treatments.

- **Focus on following up**

Once the clearing process is under way, prioritise areas that require follow-up treatment over areas that still require initial clearing. Follow-up treatment reinforces previous efforts in which you have already invested time and money, so don't waste this investment.

This also applies to recently burnt areas, because the fire acts as an initial clearing mechanism. If these areas are prioritised, they will cost less to clear while the growth is new.

- **Limit wildfire risk**

Prioritise IAP-infested areas that pose a wildfire risk to houses or infrastructure. Create effective firebreaks to separate settlements, power lines, etc from dense stands of fire-prone IAPs.

- **Start high up, end low down**

Follow the slope or drainage lines when clearing. In other words, start from the highest point and move downstream and downslope. This will ensure that potential sources of IAPs (seeds and other regenerative material) are eliminated upstream of the working area to avoid re-infestation.

Also, clear from the outside of a work block and move towards the centre.

- **Avoid soil erosion**

When clearing dense infestations of IAPs on steep slopes, work horizontally along the contours to reduce soil erosion.

Cut the IAPs in 3m-wide bands along the contours. Roll back the cut material to form a 'frill' along the band. Stagger openings between contoured stacks to further reduce run-off.

TO PREVENT REINFESTATION, START CLEARING FROM THE HIGHEST POINT AND MOVE DOWNSLOPE

- **Focus on water sources**

Priortise rivers and streams when planning the clearing of IAPs. These weeds often use a lot of water and can reduce water flow if they invade water systems. Waterways also provide a way for IAPs to spread rapidly downstream.

- **Partner with your neighbours**

Plan and manage your IAP-clearing programme in consultation with your neighbours. This will ensure more cost-effective clearing and maintenance, which in turn will reduce reinfestation. It will also enable more effective fire and fuel-load management.

- *Source: 'A Practical Guide to Managing Invasive Alien Plants'. World Wide Fund for Nature. Retrieved from bit.ly/3xo8WFt.* **FW**

GETTING STARTED

Before you get going, arrange for a suitably experienced person to survey the area to be cleared and identify the IAPs found there. A map of IAP coverage is essential for a very large area; it may not be necessary, though, for a small site.

Walk the area to be mapped; don't just rely on viewing the area from a distance or using an aerial photograph.

Photograph the site as you walk along; this will make it easier to monitor the IAP management programme.

Break the property down into sensible management units. A management unit is a uniform block of land, with similar soil, slope, history, species, age classes and densities.

Identify the actions needed in each unit, taking into consideration the site, the target species, and the herbicide and field equipment required.

Finally, calculate the costs.

Using the information gathered on the management units, the density of IAPs and the chosen control methods, try to calculate the labour required and the likely costs of the operation, which might take several years to complete.

IAPs can have a serious impact on agriculture, so there are certain laws to help prevent their spread. Find out which of these apply in your case.

The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No. 43 of 1983) (CARA) is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The Act does not use the term 'invasive alien plant', but refers to 'declared weeds' or 'declared invader plants'.

The Act places a general ban on any conduct that would disperse a declared weed.

It can also require land users to use specific methods to control weeds, such as uprooting, felling, treatment with a registered herbicide, and biological control.

Potato growing for new farmers: Part 2

Potatoes, like most crops, require constant attention while growing to ensure a good yield. In particular, you need to make sure there is enough moisture in the soil. Because of their large leaves, potatoes are a thirsty crop and can easily suffer from water stress. Learn to read the signs, advises **Bill Kerr**.

Potatoes contain a number of minerals and plant compounds that may help lower blood pressure. The high potassium content of potatoes is particularly noteworthy. FW ARCHIVE

Potatoes prefer cool conditions. In subtropical areas, the safe planting period is April/May. If you plant at any other time of the year, the potatoes may grow well but produce little or no crop.

On the Highveld, you can plant when the danger of frost has past.

You can also plant them in January. However, due to the higher rainfall at this time of the year, the plants will be more prone to leaf diseases.

Two popular varieties are Sifra and Mondial. Sifra is often planted at the start of the season, as it's early-maturing and good eating.

Mondial is vigorous, high-yielding, and easy to grow. There's also a good demand for it. It matures later than Sifra, so if you plant both varieties at the same time, you can start harvesting one while the other is still growing.

If a heatwave strikes while the crop is growing, apply frequent light irrigations to cool the area off and prevent stress.

IS THERE ENOUGH WATER FOR THE PLANT?

As mentioned last week, the potato plant develops a concentrated root system in the ridge. Because of the large leaf area, water evaporates rapidly from the plant and the soil dries out equally quickly.

Don't be fooled if the soil between the rows appears moist; it is the ridges that count. To determine whether or not the soil contains enough water for the plant, dig into the ridge to see how moist the area is under the canopy.

You should also learn to read the crop's response to water stress. When the crop needs water, the leaves become duller, in contrast to the lush, bright green appearance when the crop is well-watered. If you notice this, irrigate more frequently.

Don't get caught out by a thunderstorm, thinking that the soil will be moist for a while. With hard rain, much of the water will flow down the ridge into the furrow, and often much less water will arrive in the root area.

CARING FOR THE CROP

Spring-planted potatoes on the Highveld are often targeted by a vegetarian ladybird after the first good rains. These can be easily controlled with insecticide. Other than that, the crop is relatively pest-free.

Later-season crops are sometimes affected by blight. To combat this, spray with a copper-containing fungicide at the very first signs of the disease.

If the leaves start becoming pale, apply a dressing of LAN immediately. (Don't overdo nitrogen, however.) In general, the leaves should be a healthy colour and cover the entire area to capture as much sunlight as possible.

Go through the land a number of times to make sure the soil is ridged up and covers the tubers properly. Get rid of weeds at the same time.

The yield increases greatly towards the end of the growth period. When potatoes begin to reach maturity, the leaves become paler and start to die off. When most have died, you can start harvesting.

If you have a tractor available you may want to consider using a mechanical potato harvester.

If harvesting by hand and using a fork, be careful not to stab the tubers. After harvesting, the potatoes should be washed, dried, graded and placed into paper bags for sale. FW

Five devices set to revolutionise agriculture

Justin Platt, founder and CEO of regenerative farming companies Zylem SA and RegenZ, looks at the key technologies affecting agriculture.

Farmers need to adopt new technologies or risk being left behind. Drones, for example, can tell you all you need to know about boosting profit and yield. SUPPLIED

Agritech is a growing industry, and it's time for today's farmers to harness its potential for improved decision-making, production, access to markets, and new investment opportunities.

1. SMART SOIL HEALTH

PES Technologies has developed a tool that turns soil testing into a five-minute process. Instead of soil samples being sent off to a laboratory, the PES device works as a point-of-care diagnostics machine does in the medical field. It's hand-held and battery-powered, and controlled using a smartphone app. It reports on a range of biological, chemical and physical soil-health indicators, including microbial biomass and soil organic matter content.

You can analyse soil samples there and then on the land without any sample preparation. In this way, you'll have a better idea of the right products to use to balance the soil and create the best possible conditions for plants to thrive.

2. CLOUD-BASED DATA PLATFORMS

Cloud-based platforms such as Continuum Ag's TopSoil Tool are able to combine soil health data and deliver unbiased recommendations to provide farmers with direction and freedom to make decisions that drive higher yield and higher profit along with environmental sustainability.

Farmers can create custom recommendation algorithms that factor in existing soil biology and assess opportunities to improve regenerative farm management.

FAILING TO HARNESS THIS TECHNOLOGY IS LIKE USING A NOKIA 3310 IN 2023

From a management perspective, farmers can use the data to review anything from test results to soil organic carbon levels, biological activity, and plant-available nutrients, as well as create scouting reports and track as-applied data while in the field.

3. HAND-HELD BIONUTRIENT SPECTROMETER

This is one for both farmers and consumers: a bionutrient spectrometer is a hand-held device that measures the nutrient density in food and crops, along with carbon in the soil. Buyers will be able to test crops before purchase.

The widespread adoption of this kind of technology should also shift the drivers governing crop production; if retailers have the ability to demand a certain quality from their suppliers, growers will be incentivised to improve the quality of their produce (which can only be achieved with regenerated, healthy soils).

4. SATELLITE CROP MONITORING

Satellite imagery can help you gain big data to manage multiple fields, cut costs on resources and make reliable decisions. Images can be colour-synthesised to identify crop growth, soil erosion, pest infestations, nutrient deficiencies, diseases or irrigation issues. Farmers can create variable rate application maps for differentiated seed planting and fertilising.

5. DRONE IMAGERY

Where satellite-based data groups crops together, drone-powered farm insights can provide a higher level of detail. In fact, drone-based data is superior to on-foot inspections, as drones can use thermal and multispectral imagery to deliver data at a level unseen to the naked eye. High-resolution drones are thus the recommended data source for the purposes of precision farming for specialty crops. Combined with artificial intelligence analysis, drone imagery can provide actionable data on plant health almost in real time, so that farmers can optimise and protect their yields.

YOU CAN'T MANAGE WHAT YOU CAN'T MEASURE

With the rapid proliferation of smart technology, there's a great deal more that farmers can measure, and thus more they can manage to improve their operations, productivity and profitability. Armed with this data in the palm of your hand (quite literally), you can use the technology to increase yield and reduce cost. Failure to do so is, quite frankly, the equivalent of using a Nokia 3310 in 2023.

Visit regenz.co.za, or zylemsa.co.za

For more information on the equipment in this report, email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Equipment. **FW**

Choux pastry with streusel topping and white chocolate-milk tart ganache cream

Chef **Nicolas van der Walt**, pastry lecturer and principal of FBI Chef School & Patisserie Academy in Johannesburg, delights with these French profiteroles that have a South African twist.

MAKES 18

For the streusel topping
165g granulated sugar
165g cake flour
150g butter
Red gel food colouring

For the choux pastry
110ml milk
115ml water
Pinch salt
115g butter, cubed, at room temperature
115g cake flour
200g eggs (about 4 large), whole

For the ganache cream
150ml cream
30g glucose
100g milk tart liqueur
230g white couverture or baking chocolate
20g butter
200ml cream, whipped to soft peaks

TO MAKE THE STREUSEL TOPPING

- Place all the ingredients into a stand mixer with a paddle attachment, and mix until just combined. The mixture should have a dark red colour.
- Even the mixture out onto two baking sheets and roll it out to a thickness of 3mm using a rolling pin.
- Freeze the sheets, and then cut out circles of the desired size.
- Place the frozen discs on the top of each freshly piped choux bun.

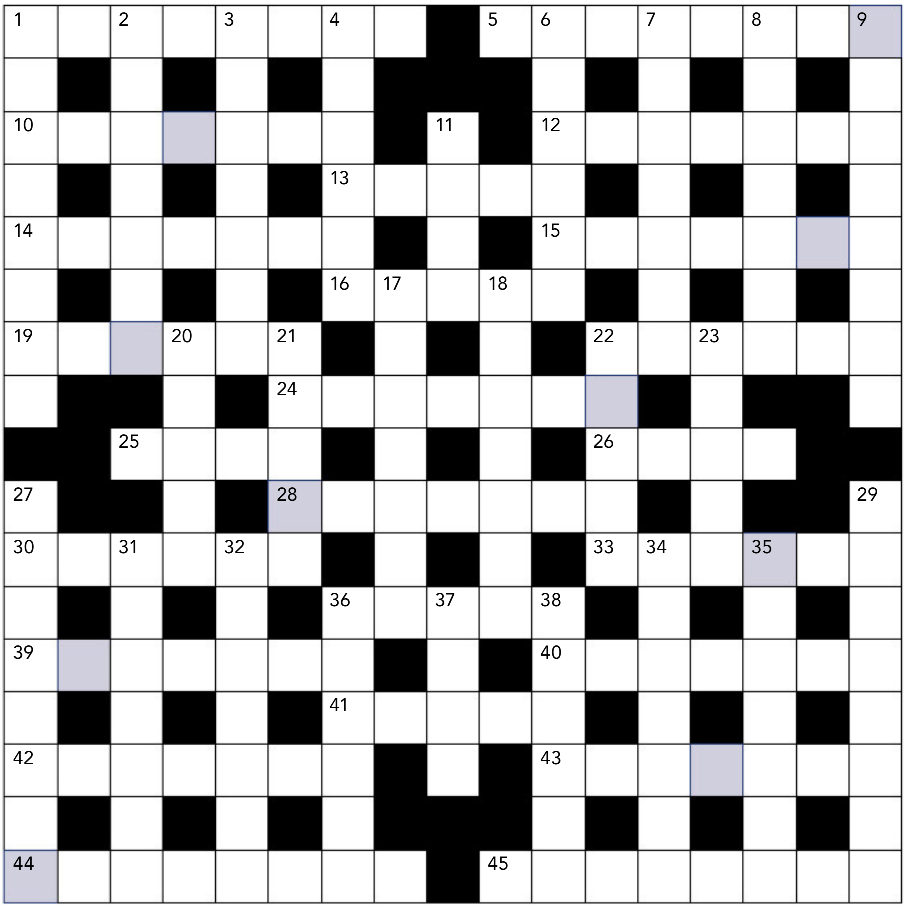
TO MAKE THE CHOUX PASTRY

- Preheat the oven to 180°C. Place a silicone baking mat onto a baking sheet.
- To a medium saucepan, add the milk, water, salt and butter, and bring to a boil.
- Add the flour all at once and stir vigorously with a silicone spatula to combine. Continue to stir for about three minutes, or until the mixture has formed a mass and pulled away from the sides of the pan. If a layer of stodgy, discoloured gluten is visible at the bottom of the pan, your mixture is ready for the next step.
- Transfer the mixture to a stand mixer with a paddle attachment. On a medium speed, cool the mixture down to room temperature. Slowly add the eggs and increase the speed to medium-high.
- Bring the pastry to a dropping consistency, then pipe onto a silicone sheet.

TO MAKE THE GANACHE CREAM

- In a medium saucepan, bring the cream to a boil.
- Remove from the heat and add the glucose.
- Add the liqueur and heat until it just reaches a boil again.
- Pour the hot mixture over the chocolate and allow it to sit for 60 seconds. Then use a spatula to stir the mixture in small, vigorous circles in the centre of the bowl until it emulsifies.
- Stir outwards in larger circles to spread the emulsion throughout the bowl, making sure all the chocolate has melted.
- Massage the butter into the ganache, ensuring no lumps of butter remain.
- Place cling wrap onto the surface of the ganache and allow it to rest for one hour.
- Fold in one-third of the whipped cream, then the remaining two-thirds.
- Cut the choux buns in half and, using a large, round tip, pipe the ganache cream on top of the base. Close with the tops.

Crossword 497



ACROSS

1. Waterfall (8)
5. Relating to regional temperature, moisture, etc. (8)
10. Young female sheep (3-4)
12. Part of a slope levelled for cultivation (7)
13. Cereal grain from which bread flour is made (5)
14. White ant (7)
15. One taking part in an equestrian competition, often held over three days (7)
16. Machine that makes hay into bundles (5)
19. Far off; isolated (6)
22. South African sorghum variety (6)
24. Edible shellfish also called sea-ear (7)
25. The sika ____ (*Cervus nippon*) was introduced to South Africa from East Asia and is considered a forest pest (4)
26. Proverbially, a cat has ____ lives (4)
28. Whinnied (7)
30. Places frequently visited (6)
33. Hand-cropping tool with a curved blade (6)
36. Sets off on a voyage (5)
39. Type of fertiliser (7)
40. Loss of memory (7)
41. To be superior or very good at something (5)
42. Restricted (7)
43. Resinous solution applied to a surface to give a glossy finish (7)
44. Fabled South American city of gold, as imagined by the Spanish conquistadors (8)
45. Of a wound, dressed with a piece of cloth (8)

DOWN

1. Animal or bird (8)
2. Proposition to be proved (7)
3. Pragmatist (7)
4. Spider's snare (6)
6. A brood of young (6)
7. The Afrikaans word for *Sclerocarya birrea*, a tree whose fruit is used for food and to make an alcoholic drink (7)
8. Grilled sandwich (7)
9. Small, fleshy fruits with large, hard stones (8)
11. Grain or pulses ground to powder (4)
17. A type of coffee originating in Africa (7)
18. Relating to a significant time or event (7)
20. Large expanse of salt water (5)
21. Performs paid work (5)
22. Repairs (5)
23. Child's name for a rabbit (5)
27. Thick, velvety yarn made of wool or silk (8)
29. Separated (8)
31. Still wild (7)
32. Farmer's utility vehicle (7)
34. Placed in the middle (7)
35. Wine-sampling event (7)
36. Produced multicellular reproductive structures (6)
37. Twelfth part of a foot (4)
38. The sage genus (6)

MYSTERY WORD

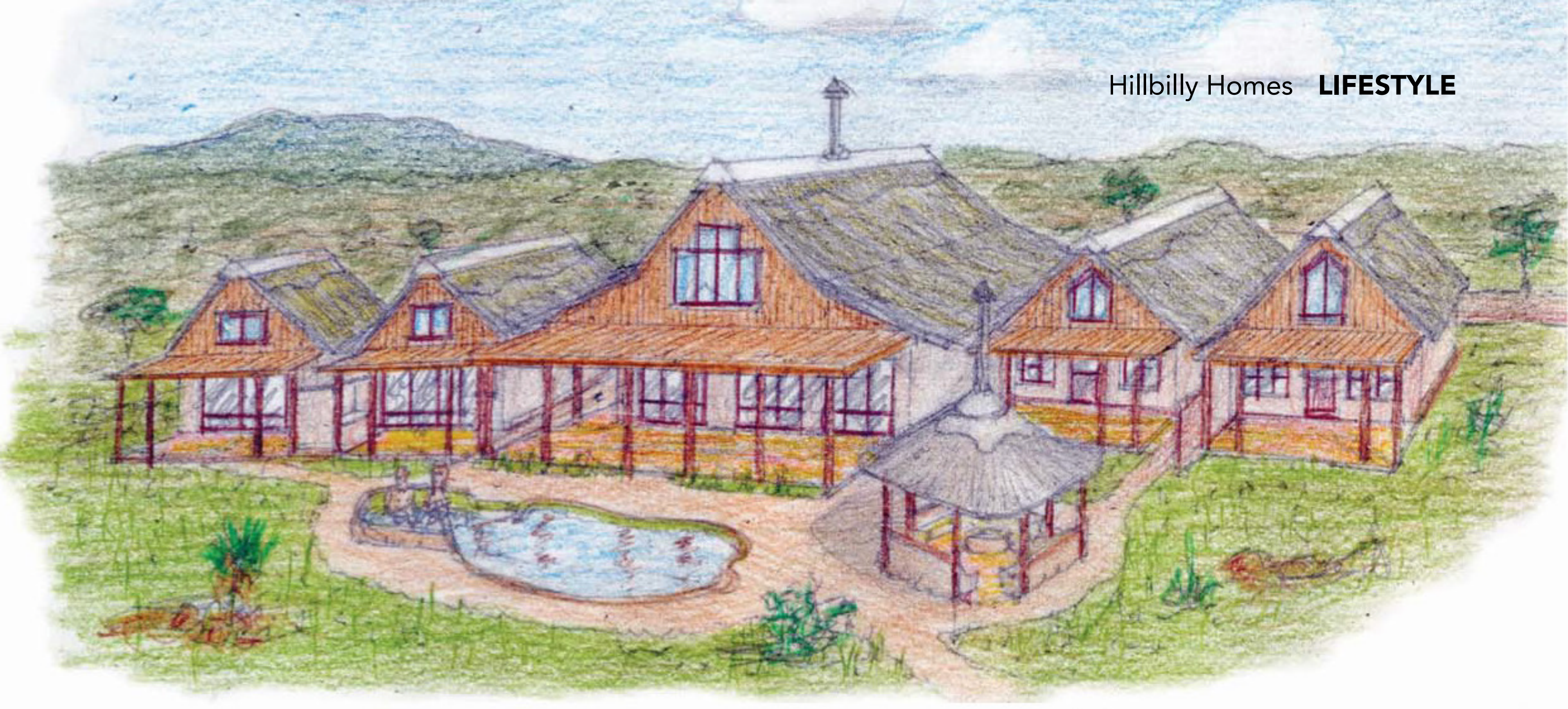
___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

CROSSWORD 492: 27 JANUARY 2023

ACROSS: 1. Camomile; 5. Swine flu; 11. Lanolin; 12. Sage tea; 13. Depth; 14. Azalea; 15. Inland; 16. Spelt; 19. Omen; 23. Bean; 24. Arabica; 25. Resin; 26. Louse; 28. Arbours; 30. Fowl; 32. Foal; 35. Agree; 38. Loathe; 39. Cowpea; 40. Minor; 42. Chianti. ; 43. Uplands; 44. Segments; 45. Appeased

DOWN: 1. Calvados; 2. Montane; 3. Millet; 4. Land; 6. Wash; 7. Nagana; 8. Fatcake; 9. Ugandans; 10. Maple; 17. Peat bog; 18. Leisure; 20. Nasal; 21. Canal; 22. False; 23. Bluff; 27. Afflicts; 29. Cleansed; 31. Whaling; 33. Orpines; 34. Chance; 36. Range; 37. Collie; 40. Mist; 41. Rump

MYSTERY WORD: Asparagus



An oasis for hunters and their families

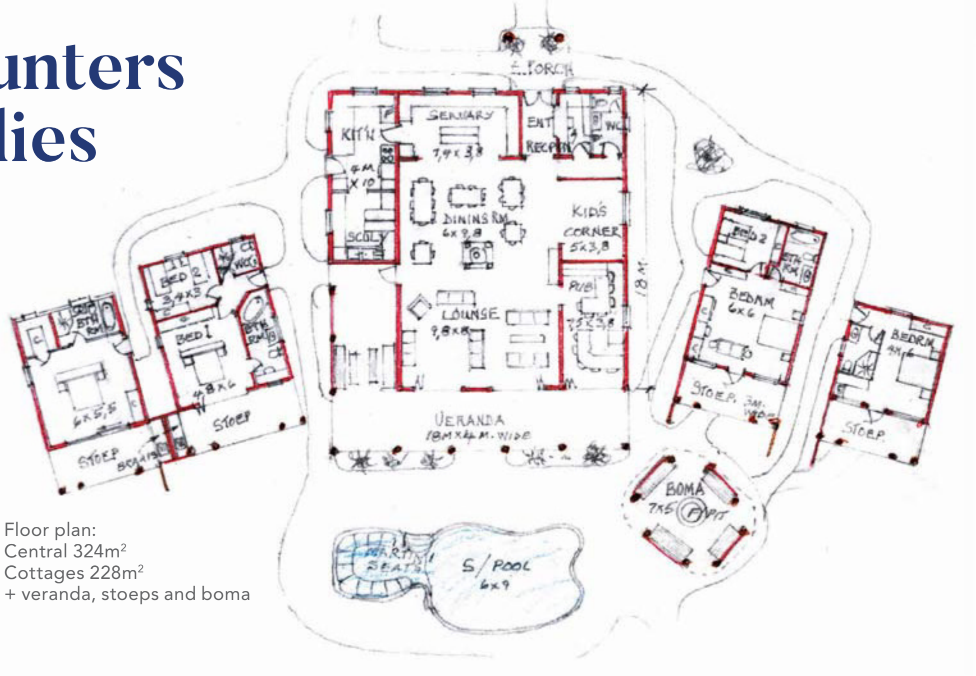
Dear Jonno,
I live on an arid yet beautiful farm in the Northern Cape. We run a hunting facility that has catered to generations of hunters, primarily from South Africa. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I attended a workshop about attracting hunters from Europe and the US.

My plan is to create a top-quality facility to attract not only hunters, but their families, too, to spend time on the farm. I wish to create something of an oasis in this area that the guests can retreat to during the heat of the day.

A primary part of the project has to be a lodge-type building with a full kitchen capable of hosting chefs of high repute. I want the guests to have their food prepared to international standards.

Accommodation for at least eight guests needs to be private and isolated, so views must not be obscured by other buildings. A luxury boma area can perhaps be centrally situated.

We are fortunate to be bordered by a reliable river, so there would be a supply of water to a pool.
Kind regards,
Stefan



Floor plan:
Central 324m^2
Cottages 228m^2
+ veranda, stoeps and boma

Dear Stefan,
It has been a while since I have had request for a lodge. This is understandable, considering the knock that COVID-19 gave to tourism and the economy in general.

With your requirements, I have included upmarket, five-star facilities. As you are aware, hunting is seasonal, and the facilities shown will also cater for 'out of season' visitors, encouraging a regular income stream.

The layouts of the four cottages are all different in their internal room arrangement, as some have single bedrooms and others double. This allows for groups of different sizes to be accommodated. The cottages can be placed individually in pleasant bushy locations, and with suitable views. I have depicted them in close proximity to each other merely for presentation purposes.

Placement will be according to tourist preferences for security and privacy, or socialising at the boma or Martini-seat pool.

In terms of styling, I have shown the central lodge with a scissor roof truss. This has open beams and thatch-exposed ceilings, which help to create a country-life look and feel. The cottages are shown with regular double-pitched thatched roofs. These can have higher pitches if required to accommodate attic sleeper rooms.
Kind regards,
Jonno **FW**

Jonno Smith is a registered architect. Email hillbilly@eca.co.za or visit hillbillyhomes.co.za.
Please provide details of the proposed development.

THE HITCHING POST

I'm a 69-year-old woman who'd like to meet a genuine male friend who can communicate. My interests include going out, cycling, and relaxing around a braai with sundowners. I am family-oriented and I love people. No scammers, please.
MEETING A FRIEND

I am a sincere, lonely widow seeking a sincere, honest, kind-hearted man aged 60 or older. I love reading, and helping people and animals. Looking forward to hearing from you.
LONELY

I'm a 65-year-old divorced and retired businesswoman of European descent. I spent 10 years living on a smallholding, but have since moved to the coast. I love animals, nature, fine arts, music, good food and entertaining friends.
COUNTRY LOVE, 4225

I am a widowed 57-year-old white woman who is looking for her soulmate. I don't have children.

I love the outdoors, camping, and watching rugby and cricket. I am a Christian and I don't smoke or drink.

I am honest and have integrity, and I'm looking for a white man between the ages of 57 and 75 who is financially secure and looking for a long-term relationship. He needs to like dogs, too.
ALL YOURS, 9480

I am a caring and young-in-spirit bachelor aged 76 with a good sense of humour and lots of love to share. I seek a serious relationship with a like-minded lady between the ages of 55 and 75 who shares my interests and is looking for a loving partner.

My interests include reading, music, animals, sport, comedy, walking, good food and good company. Please request my cell phone number to contact me.
CARE AND SHARE, 2551

I am a 69-year-old white bachelor looking for a white lady who is financially secure. My interests are dining out, theatre, movies, animals, and walking on the beach watching the sunrise and sunset. Jewish ladies also welcome to reply.
BEACH BOY, 3201

I'm a respectable, 75-year-old gentleman who is interested in correspondence, conversation and travelling.
I would like to hear from a lady who has similar interests.
ALBERTINO BEREA, 2198

HOW TO PLACE A POST: The service is free, confidential and open to those over 18. Posts or replies cannot be written on behalf of someone else, and you must supply a pseudonym. Posts must not exceed 50 words and your address must be legible. Sign with your name and surname. Send your post to Hitching Post, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123 or email hitchingpost@caxton.co.za.

HOW TO REPLY TO A POST: Send a response in a sealed, SA-stamped envelope and write the pseudonym of the person to whom it should be sent on the front cover in pen. Place this into a second SA-stamped envelope and send it to Hitching Post, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123.

On The Edge

New strawberry variety launched

Singrow, a Singapore-based agrigenomics company, recently announced the launch of a climate-resilient strawberry variety, according to HortiDaily.com. The company is also currently developing other crop segments to help address food security challenges in Asia and Africa.

The new strawberry variety was developed using new growing methods, based on genomic sciences, to create a disease- and drought-resistant cultivar.

"Singrow is the first company to successfully utilise genomic technology to develop a sustainable commercial strawberry variety that can grow in tropical climates, such as those in Singapore and Southeast Asia," Dr Bao Shengjie, co-founder and director of Singrow, told the website.

"The success of this strawberry variety is the culmination of several years of research, and we are excited to share this announcement with the global agricultural community."

THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

"Warmer temperatures caused by climate change have had a significant impact on food production. We believe that molecular and genomic crop-breeding technologies are the future for agriculture, and we are proud to invent the future of agriculture in Singapore and tackle the toughest problems to secure the future of food," Shengjie concluded.

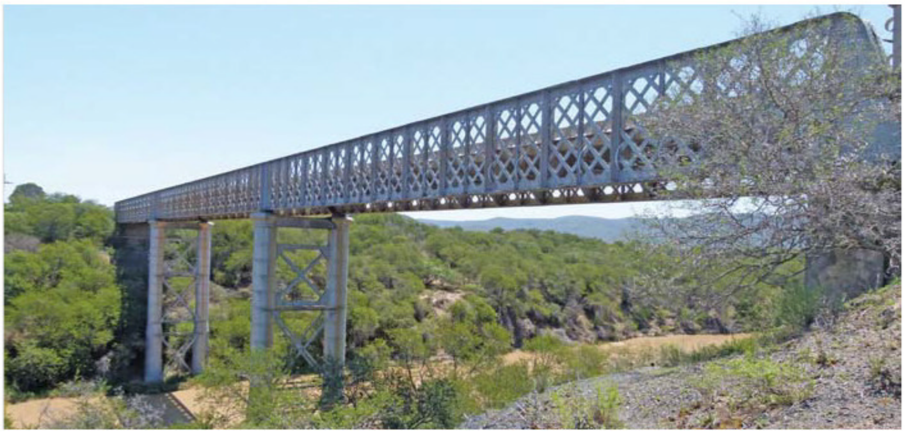
This new technology "presents a significant opportunity for the agriculture sector, as it can be applied to many staple crops", according to the article.

Singrow is hoping to expand its offering to include rice, maize, palm oil and staple vegetables.

For more information, email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za. **FW**

Bridging the Great Fish River

An almost 150-year-old iron bridge over the Eastern Cape's Great Fish River is a fine example of British civil engineer **Joseph Newey**'s contributions to bridge building in South Africa during the 19th century, writes **Mike Burgess**.



Joseph Newey's Clough Bridge across the Great Fish River at Committees Drift in the Eastern Cape. Completed in 1877, this well-designed and solidly constructed bridge is still in use today. MIKE BURGESS

In the early 1870s, English civil engineer Joseph Newey was headhunted by the Cape Colony's Public Works Department (PWD) to construct an iron-lattice girder bridge across the Buffalo River at King William's Town (known as Qonce today), and another over the Great Fish River at Committees Drift.

Newey's skill and tenacity during the construction of the Great Fish River bridge in particular led to the extension of his role at the PWD into the next century, during which time he was involved in many more bridge-building projects in the region.

PLANNING AND INITIAL CONSTRUCTION

After the completion of the King William's Town bridge, Newey turned his attention to the construction of the bridge at Committees Drift, where a natural rock shelf had made the site a well-known place to ford the river.

Unsurprisingly, Committees Drift held significance for both the British and Xhosa, who spent most of the 19th century at war with each other.

The British started building the Committees Drift military post on the west bank of the Great Fish River in the mid-1830s to guard the wagon road between King William's Town and Grahamstown (Makhanda).

By 1872, increased traffic across the important drift prompted George Clough, a Grahamstown resident and member of the Cape Colonial Parliament, to lobby successfully for the construction of a bridge at the site.

Once approved, the bridge was designed by Henry Wakefield, a consulting engineer from London, while the tender for the manufacture of the prefabricated parts was awarded to The Crown Works of Fleet & Newey, Newey's old firm in West Bromwich, England.

The parts were transported by canal boat from West Bromwich to Liverpool, from where they were shipped to the harbour at Port Kowie (Port Alfred), South Africa.

From there, ox wagons were used to transport the components to the site at Committees Drift.

Work on the bridge began in late 1873, and a large contingent of skilled and unskilled workers were put up in shacks along the river. Newey and his family took up residence in the nearby Committees Drift Hotel while waiting for their cottage to be built.

Everyone settled down to work on the bridge and a year of progress followed. Then, in December 1874, disaster struck in the form of unprecedented flooding: the waters of the Great Fish rose and swept through the construction site, washing components, including the timber staging, downsteam. Months of delay followed as the damaged parts were painstakingly retrieved, repaired and reinstalled.

The flood, in fact, changed the very design of the bridge, which was raised by 1,8m and extended with two more spans of 19,8m each.

Eventually, after nearly four years of grinding labour (during which time the Neweys lost a child to croup and were blessed with the arrival of another), the bridge was opened on 30 April 1877, at a final cost of just over £33 000 (about R107 million today).

It was named in honour of Clough, who had successfully leveraged funds from the colonial government for its construction. Unfortunately, he had died in 1876, and therefore never had the chance to see the completed bridge.

A BRIDGE-BUILDING LEGACY

The 1874 floods in fact wreaked havoc on a number of bridges in the Cape's Eastern Frontier.

As a result, after repairing and completing the bridge at Committees Drift, Newey was tasked with reconstructing all the damaged bridges in the region.

In 1893, he was promoted to chief inspector of the PWD, and worked for the department into the early 20th century.

Newey was involved in the building of many more iron bridges and several elegant stone-arch bridges in the region.

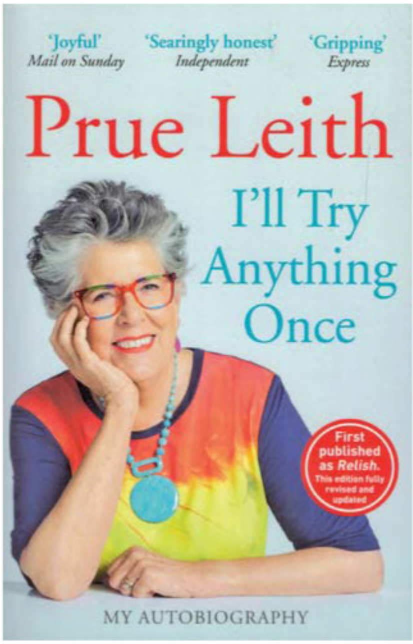
Sadly, his career was cut short by health problems, and he retired to his farm, Peninsula, near Komga in 1905, where he died two years later at the age of 60.

Despite the fact that most of Newey's bridges were single-lane structures designed for ox wagons and horse-drawn carts, a number of them, including the bridge at Committees Drift, are still in use today. This fact alone underscores Newey's special place in the transport and engineering history of South Africa.

Sources: *Artefacts.co.za. 2020. 'Newey, Joseph'. bit.ly/3RYFiA2; Martinson W. 2016. 'Clough Bridge - Great Fish River'. Artefacts.co.za. bit.ly/3YJtGDy; Walters D. 2014.* Bridging the Eastern Cape: The Life and Work of Joseph Newey. *Coral Tree Press, East London.* **FW**

Food, farming, and fatal misjudgements

This week, **Patricia McCracken** reviews Prue Leith's updated autobiography and latest recipes, a book on how to make money with hydroponics, and a debut novel on abusive spouses.

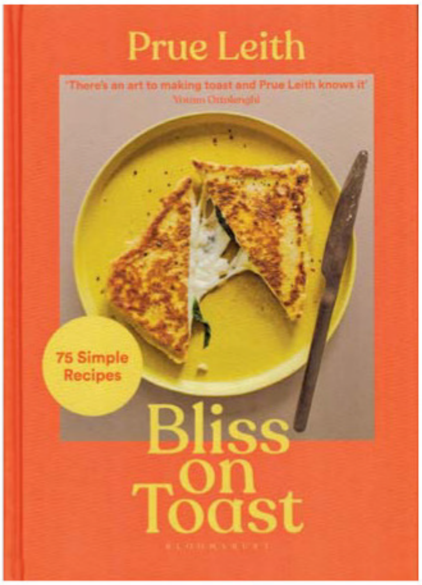

'Joyful' Mail on Sunday
'Searingly honest' Independent
'Gripping' Express
Prue Leith
I'll Try Anything Once
First published as Relish. This edition fully revised and updated
MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

South African-born foodie supremo and renowned *Great British Bake Off* judge **Prue Leith** was recently back in the country for a holiday and to promote her two latest books.

Bliss On Toast *(Bloomsbury, R450)* is a collection of yummy quick-meal recipes, while the new edition of her autobiography, now retitled **I'll Try Anything Once *(Quercus, R245)***, previously *Relish*, contains an extra 60 or so pages bringing her life story up to date.

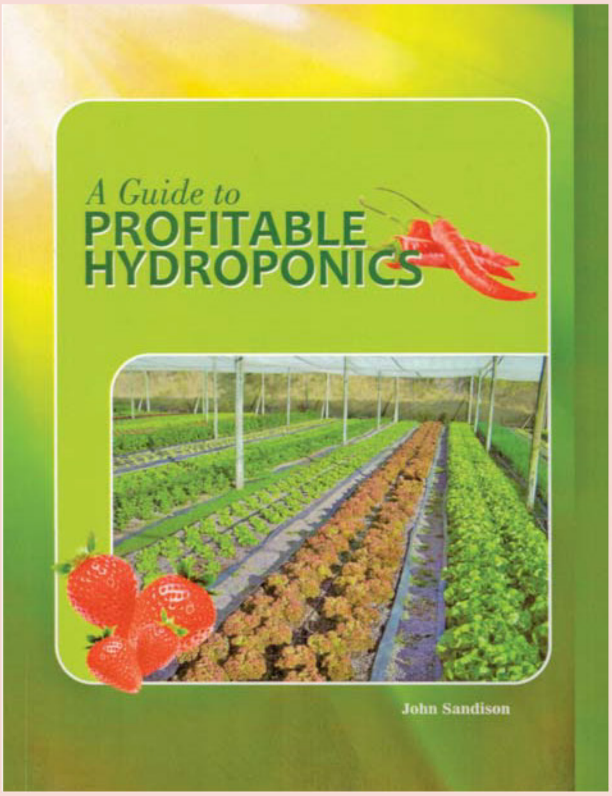
Leith shared a few tidbits with us:

- **In the kitchen**
My mother was an actress and a creative but hopeless cook. It never occurred to anyone then that I'd end up in a kitchen until I escaped to cookery school in Paris!
- **An omission**
Right after the book came out, I realised I should have included a version of bunny chow! But it gives me an excuse for *Bliss 2*.
- **Leftovers**
The best cooks make the best of leftovers, and anything that tastes good on a plate, like *coq au vin*, for example, tastes even better on toast.
- **Bold and bright**
I've always loved bright colours, but was never brave enough to wear them until I met my husband John, who was involved in fashion marketing. Now I've launched my own range of spectacles, necklaces and even china!


Prue Leith
'There's an art to making toast and Prue Leith knows it' Yotam Ottolenghi
75 Simple Recipes
Bliss on Toast
BLOOMSBURY

- **Johannesburg**
Being back here has reminded me just how much I love Johannesburg weather! Even in the middle of summer when it's 30°, it's not humid. Now *that's* bliss.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT


A Guide to PROFITABLE HYDROPONICS
John Sandison

It has been nearly 20 years since hydroponics expert John Sandison first shared his views on this then up-and-coming technology with *Farmer's Weekly* readers.

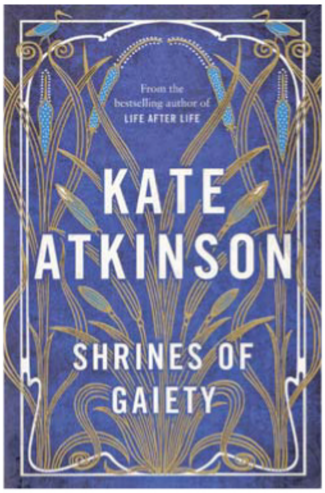
He was based in KwaZulu-Natal and, as a retirement project, ran a strawberry farm of more than 220 000 plants. It was in a borderline-climate area, however, and he ended up with blighted strawberries, which in turn ignited his enthusiasm for hydroponics.

Sandison, now in England, has written a how-to book on the subject. Pointedly entitled **A Guide to Profitable Hydroponics *(Amazon, R268)***, it has 34 pithy chapters on subjects from plant nutrition and systems options to potential pitfalls and optimising your site.

Technical subjects are covered in plain English, and Sandison combines his own experience with course material from ACS Distance Education in the UK.

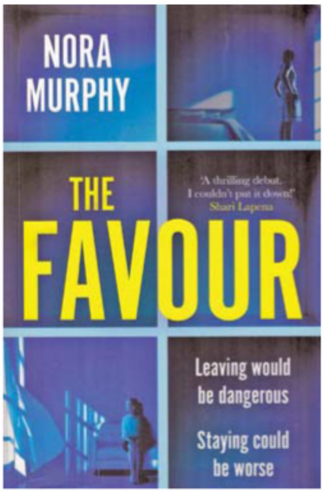
FIVE COPIES OF *BLISS ON TOAST* TO BE WON

TO ENTER: Email the word BLISS and your name, physical address and ID number to farmersweekly@caxton.co.za with the subject line 'Win a Book'. Competition opens on 24 February 2023 and runs until 31 March 2023. Visit farmersweekly.co.za for full competition details and rules. Terms and conditions apply.


From the bestselling author of LIFE AFTER LIFE
KATE ATKINSON
SHRINES OF GAIETY

Shrines of Gaiety ***by Kate Atkinson (Doubleday, R270)***
Atkinson hit gold with her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, nearly 30 years ago. She has continued to deliver quality with an often quirky world view through her dozen novels so far. Here, she portrays London's glittering and notorious nightlife in the hectic flapper days of 1926. Runaway teens, a respectable teacher and police officers, both conscientious and on the take, are sucked into this fascinating but all-too-often fatal underworld.

Teacher Gwendolen Kelling has come to London in search of Freda, a friend's runaway sister. Planted by the police inside clubs run by a mobster family for information that might stem the tide of dead bodies fished from the Thames, Kelling finds life as a double agent much more fun than teaching. She chases Freda from one sighting to the next, as Freda becomes increasingly wary. A rich and absorbing read.


NORA MURPHY
'A thrilling debut. I couldn't put it down!' Shari Lapena
THE FAVOUR
Leaving would be dangerous
Staying could be worse

The Favour ***by Nora Murphy (Macmillan, R340)***
Leah spots a stranger in a bottle store and realises that she could be staring at her twin. The two women look similar and, Leah deduces, live similar lives of quiet desperation with controlling and emotionally abusive spouses. Leah follows the woman home, and decides that the other woman, whom she comes to know as McKenna, needs protection.

As the abuse is scaled up in both women's lives, so is the nature of the protection that Leah envisages.

One night, however, to McKenna's utter shock, Leah snaps. Two new questions arise: will McKenna return Leah's favour, and will there be reprisals?

Murphy's debut has a fairly predictable plot, but the meat of the novel is in the journey of the two central characters, linked at a distance in a battle of wits with men.

Patricia McCracken is a features and investigative journalist. **FW**

farmer's weekly
SERVING AGRICULTURE SINCE 1911
HOW TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH SMALL-SCALE MIXED FARMING
WHY PLANT MONITORING IS KEY TO PEST CONTROL
SOUTH KOREA EXPLORING TRADE AND AGRI OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA

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Bucket-list breakfasts that alone are worth the trip!

Experts agree that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and seasoned *Farmer's Weekly* travel writer **Brian Berkman** says the venues described here are his best-ever choices.

THE CAPITAL 15 ON ORANGE

CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE

The breakfast buffet at The Capital 15 on Orange offers a wide selection to feast on in its Emerald Lounge Restaurant and Bar. The hotel breakfast buffet, priced at R250 per person, is a sumptuous spread. Smoothies, blended fruit and vegetable juices, and endless coffee come with a wide range of baked goods, including gluten-free breads and pastries. And, something extra special is sushi rolls with all the accompaniments (Japanese mayonnaise, wasabi and pickled ginger.)

Bircher muesli is milk-soaked overnight, while the chia-seed pots are creamy and soft. Piles of smoked salmon are offered, along with capers, onions, and herbed cream cheese. Charcuterie includes salami, ham and smoked chicken.

Phone 021 469 8000.

Sushi rolls with all the accompaniments are served for breakfast at The Capital 15 on Orange.

Ist Too restaurant in Istanbul serves these delicious buns at its breakfast buffet. The full breakfast costs 688 Turkish lira (about R660).

IST TOO

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

At Ist Too in the Shangri-La Hotel on the Bosphorus River in Turkey, the breakfast buffet is a gateway to cuisines of the globe. Its location straddles Europe and the East, and you'll find the flavours of the world in one elegant restaurant.

It is a vast expanse with a hot buffet and live cooking stations on the one side, while centre islands are dedicated to olives, another to fresh local cheeses, and yet another to the cheeses of Europe and the Americas.

The Turks are especially proud of their own cuisine, and dishes such as *acili ezme*, a spicy tomato sauce bejewelled with shards of pistachio, bring back all my memories of a trip to that fabulous city. A full Oriental breakfast is also served, from *congee* rice soup to slickly fried noodles.

Here you will find hummus in more ways than you can imagine, served with traditional breads from the region: round bagel-style breads with sesame seeds, and flatbreads.

Oranges and pomegranates are squeezed for their juice while you wait.

Phone +90 212 275 8888.

PROUD MARY

JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

Breakfast at Proud Mary, the restaurant at the Voco hotel in Rosebank, is highly recommended. While fully included for residential guests, items are available à la carte for day visitors. Try the pear and cacao smoothie (R55) or the brightly flavoured Asian omelette with spicy prawns (R95). Coffees are made by a barista and served in Le Creuset mugs.

Brunch offerings include a Spanish take on the classic steak, egg and chips, served here with *patatas bravas* and a soft poached egg (R110).

Their spicy Proud Mary cocktail, available with vodka (R65) or without, is the perfect beverage to accompany the kimchi-heady Asian omelette. To ensure a relaxed morning, breakfast is served until midday.

Phone 010 023 2600.

The kimchi-heady Asian omelette at the Proud Mary in Rosebank is an exceptional dish.

Breakfast at the Oyster Box is a pricey outing, but well worth the money considering the high-quality food available. The famous buffet offers indulgent delicacies in abundance.

THE OYSTER BOX

UMHLANGA, KWAZULU-NATAL

With immediate views over the hotel's swimming pool and, further out, of the Indian Ocean, this iconic property with its red-and-white-striped lighthouse serves a stellar breakfast buffet.

At R495 a head, this is a costly outing but, when taken at a leisurely pace, will sustain you for the whole day. Start with oysters, grown in the hotel's own oyster bed, and local bubbly wine. The home-cured salmon is silky and pink and piled onto soft rye bread that's slathered in cream cheese. This is a meal in itself. Expect quality and quantity in equal abundance.

Standouts include the spicy lamb kebabs from the hot buffet, and the vegan omelette made from chickpea flour.

This breakfast will cater to restricted diets as fully as it will to those with a sweet tooth, considering the candy-store items that can be added to pancakes and waffles. The superb and friendly service rounds off a perfect experience.

Phone 031 514 5000.

CARRY ME HOME DELI

KLEINMOND, WESTERN CAPE

In Harbour Road, Kleinmond, in Overstrand is Carry Me Home Deli, run by Frans and Mariaan Groenewald, the team previously from The Restaurant at Gabriëlskloof Wine Estate.

There is a bobotie Benedict (R105) on the breakfast menu that not only localises a classic French breakfast dish, but improves on it.

Here, mildly spicy mince on *roosterkoek* is topped with two perfectly poached eggs, covered in sunshine-yellow Hollandaise sauce. For a low-carb version, ditch the *roosterkoek* and have it served on a bed of sautéed mushrooms instead.

And, if you intend to linger for the day, the pork belly for lunch is hard to beat.

Phone 082 871 7982. **FW**

Auction sales

TO PLACE AN UPCOMING AUCTION EVENT in the Classifieds Auctions section, contact René Moonsamy on 010 971 3771 or at renea@caxton.co.za, or Natasha Kock on 010 971 3770 or at natashakock@caxton.co.za.

TO LIST AUCTION RESULTS in this section, email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za.

Market report

15 February 2023	Price
Beef	
Weaner calves < 200kg	R36,80/kg
Weaner calves 200kg - 250kg	R35,75/kg
Weaner calves > 250kg	R33,90/kg
A-class	R35,55/kg
B-class	Unvailable
C-class cows (fat)	R23,94/kg
C-class cows (thin)	R19,40/kg
Slaughter bulls	R24,45/kg
Mutton and lamb	
Feeder lambs > 30kg	R37,10/kg
Slaughter lambs	R34,30/kg
Feeder ewes	R31/kg
Fat ewes	R30,50/kg
Goats	
Lambs	Unavailable
Ewes	Unavailable

Best livestock prices: Northern Free State
For more information, phone Chris Derksen on 082 807 5961.

Kesieberg Merino Stud Production Sale

HIGHEST: (RAM) R22 000

Burgersdorp – The Kesieberg Merino Stud Production Sale was held on the farm Leeuwfontein on 1 February on behalf of Willie and Herman Henning.

The highest price of the day was paid for a ram, which was sold to Werner Pieterse of Doringkloof in Venterstad for R22 000. Pieterse also bought the second-highest priced ram for R21 000. Rams achieved an average price of R7 325. Ewes were sold for an average of R2 800.

The sale was held by BKB, with JP Marais as the auctioneer. – *Gavin Isted*

ABOVE: The highest-priced ram, which was sold for R22 000, with (back, from left): Willie Henning (seller), Werner Pieterse (buyer), JP Marais (auctioneer) and Thinus Coetzer (OVK). Front: Jan van der Walt (left, BKB) and Herman Henning (seller). GAVIN ISTED

Pine Grove Merino Stud Production Sale

HIGHEST: (RAM) R46 000

Dordrecht – The Pine Grove Merino Stud Production Sale was held on the farm Pine Grove on 24 January on behalf of Peter and David Cloete.

The highest price of the day was paid for a ram, which was sold to Frank Uys of Mist Valley Trust in Chrissiesmeer for R46 000. Uys also bought the second-highest priced ram for R36 000. Rams achieved an average price of R9 901,16, while ewes were sold for an average of R1 840.

The sale was held by BKB, with Brandon Leer as the auctioneer. – *Gavin Isted*

ABOVE: The highest-priced ram (left) and the second-highest priced ram, which were sold for R46 000 and R36 000 respectively, with (back, from left): Brandon Leer (auctioneer), Frans Uys (buyer), Peter Cloete (seller) and Gary Trethewey (BKB). Front: David Cloete (left, seller) and James Veitch (BKB). GAVIN ISTED

Monthly auction calendar

BOTSWANA

11 MARCH

Simply Red Auction, Tlokweng, Gaborone. On offer: Kalahari Red ewes and rams, and Bonsmara heifers, cows and bulls. Phone Nico Vos on +267 71 312 330, or Nicolene Vos on +267 75 955 982.

FREE STATE

1 MARCH

HE Hugo Cattle Production Sale, Welgegund, Smithfield. On offer: 50 + 50 cows and calves (Angus-Stormberger crosses), 60 in-calf cows (out of Beefmaster and Stormberger bulls), 20 open cows (running with Beefmaster and Stormberger bulls), 65 weaners (Angus-Stormberger crosses), two Beefmaster bulls and two Stormberger bulls. Phone Jannie van Straten on 082 891 7172, or André van Zyl on 084 587 7660.

4 MARCH

The Great Out of Africa Meatmaster Sale, Afridome, Parys. On offer: 200 ewes and 20 rams. Phone Ian Grobbelaar on 060 965 6207, or Naledi Roberts on 082 925 5910.

11 MARCH

Manso Select Brahman Sale, Afridome, Parys. On offer: five bulls and four semen lots. Phone Riaan Theron on 082 921 2347, or Boesman Hattingh on 082 445 5460.

18 MARCH

Simbra Heifer Carnival, Afridome, Parys. On offer: 250 heifers (stud and commercial). Phone Matt Kinghorn on 072 296 2202, or Ian Grobbelaar on 060 965 6207.

GAUTENG

4 MARCH

Dorper and White Dorper National Sale, Fire and Wine Arena, Pretoria. On offer: 88 Dorper ewes, 31 White Dorper ewes, 27 Dorper rams and 28 White Dorper rams. Phone Corné du Plessis on 076 101 9996, or Attie Westraad on 071 606 5625.

18 MARCH

Mega Hartwater Meatmaster Production Sale, Fire and Wine Arena, Pretoria. On offer: 160 ewes and 15 rams. Phone Corné du Plessis on 076 101 9996.

25 MARCH

Quattro Boer Goat Production Sale, Tierpoort, Pretoria. On offer: 20 rams and 90 ewes. Phone Nicky Nell on 081 468 9477, or Vaatjie Nell on 072 459 4059.

LIMPOPO

4 MARCH

Doornpoort Genetics Production Sale, Warmbad Veemark, Bela-Bela. On offer: 30 Boer goat rams, 100 Boer goat ewes, 90 Kalahari Red ewes and two Kalahari Red rams. Phone Carel Chalmers on 082 896 9586.

11 MARCH

Dimension Wildlife Services Game Auction, Melkrivier Bomas. On offer: kudu, sable, eland, nyala, blue wildebeest, golden wildebeest, red hartebeest, tsessebe, ostrich, blesbok, impala, springbok, white-flanked impala, waterbuck, gemsbok, giraffe, hippo, lion, buffalo and crocodile. Phone Jaco Lubbe on 071 246 4973.

25 MARCH

WJ Barnard Savanna and Savanna-type Dispersal Sale, Pietersburg Auction Complex, Polokwane. On offer: 200 Savanna and Savanna-type ewes (in lamb or with lambs), six rams, 50 young ram-mature ewes, and 40 slaughter animals. Phone Henry Kotze on 078 800 5159, or WJ Barnard on 082 578 2664.

MPUMALANGA

4 MARCH

Ntaba Nyoni Cattle Production Sale, Ntaba Nyoni Cattle Ranch, Badplaas. On offer: 50 Borans and 25 Ankoles. Phone Lourens Koch on 083 286 6395, or Johan van der Nest on 082 574 4220.

22 MARCH

Joubertsvlei Boerdery Trust Production Sale, Joubertsvlei, Standerton. On offer: 40 Merino rams and 300 C-grade ewes. Phone PM Swart on 083 948 3345, or Johan Steyn on 083 229 7425.

NORTH WEST

23 MARCH

LHB Bonsmaras and Kruger Bonsmaras Production Sale, Leeuwheuvel, Christiana. On offer: 25 SP bulls and 300 commercial female animals. Phone Schalk van der Merwe on 082 551 2598, or Frikkie Kruger on 083 702 2771.

NORTHERN CAPE

31 MARCH

Nooitgedacht Dorper Stud and Kasteel White Dorper Stud Autumn Production Sale, Upington Showgrounds. On offer: 40 Dorper rams, 75 in-lamb Dorper ewes, 20 White Dorper rams, 10 Van Rooy rams, five Boer goat rams and five Persian rams. Phone Stiaan von Wielligh on 082 844 6604.

30 MARCH

Sutherland Karoo Meatmaster Club Production Sale, Sutherland Showgrounds. On offer: 35 rams and 460 ewes. Phone André van der Merwe on 083 556 2828, or Nicolaas Paulsen on 083 413 0240.

Market indicator rises on back of weakening rand

At the 19th sale of the 2022/23 wool season, 14 205 bales were on offer, with a sales clearance of 95,9% achieved.

According to Cape Wools SA, 3 777 bales were withdrawn prior to the sale.

Certified-sustainable wool represented 61,6% of the Merino lots on offer, with 64% of this testing 20 microns or finer. Compared with the previous sale, non-Responsible Wool Standard lots saw an uptick of 3,5% in the market indicator to close at R183,39/kg, while RWS-certified wool gained 2,6% to close at R196,45/kg.

These gains were on the back of a weakening rand and a bullish Australian market, which saw an increase of 3,4% in the market indicator compared with the previous sale.

Major buyers at the sale were G Modiano SA (3 303 bales), BKB Pinnacle Fibres (2 932), Standard Wool SA (2 704) and Lempriere SA (1 710).
– *Staff reporter*

Tractor prices

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT AT 15%
Products and prices were correct at the time of going to print and reflect prices as at 1 February 2023.

MODEL	POWER (kW)	PRICE
AGRICO		
4+160 (4) Cab	170	R1 752 025
4+200 (4) Cab	211	R2 150 500
4+250 (4) Cab	260	R2 593 250
4+320 (4) Cab	317	R2 991 725
4+400 (4) Cab	410	R3 605 250
CASE INTERNATIONAL		
JX 35 T MFD	26	R327 902
JX 45 T	34	R346 878
JX 45 T MFD	34	R379 829
JX 55 T	41	R358 730
JX 55 T MFD	41	R420 063
JX 75 T	55	R386 426
JX 75 T MFD	55	R448 108
Farmall JX 75 MFD Cab	56	R773 560
Farmall JXM 80 MFD PS	59	R568 141
Farmall JXM 80 PS	59	R440 827
JX 80	59	R536 295
JX 80 MFD	59	R632 194
Farmall JX 90 MFD Cab	67	R908 827
Farmall JXM 90 MFD PS	67	R576 561
JX 90	67	R543 187
JX 90 MFD	67	R655 018
JX 95 MFD	71	R657 172
JX 95 MFD HC Cab	71	R912 957
Farmall JX 100 MFD	75	R840 023
Farmall JX 100 MFD Cab	75	R910 310
Farmall JX 110 MFD	82	R869 294
Farmall JX 110 MFD Cab	82	R964 930
Maxxum 110 MFD Limited	83	R1 274 978
Maxxum 110 MFD Limited Cab	83	R1 415 289
Maxxum 110 MFD X Cab	83	R1 560 406
Maxxum 125 MFD Limited	93	R1 415 108
Maxxum 125 MFD Limited Cab	93	R1 547 099
Maxxum 125 MFD X	93	R1 497 938
Maxxum 125 MFD X Cab	93	R1 767 310
Maxxum 140 MFD X Cab	104	R1 873 521
Puma 140 MFD Cab	104	R2 091 564
Puma 155 MFD Cab	115	R2 189 606
Puma 180 MFD Cab	134	R2 656 469
Puma 210 MFD Cab	157	R3 007 007
Puma 225 MFD CVT Cab	168	R3 390 676
Magnum MX 250 MFD Cab	187	R4 350 877
Magnum MX 280 MFD Cab	209	R4 830 979
Magnum MX 310 MFD Cab	232	R5 520 207
Magnum MX 340 MFD Cab	254	R5 677 614
Magnum MX 340 Rowtrac Cab	254	R7 375 446
Magnum MX 380 MFD CVT Cab	280	R6 733 646
Magnum MX 380 Rowtrac CVT Cab	280	R8 389 044
Magnum MX 400 MFD Cab	298	R6 374 835
STX 400 (4) Cab	300	R7 126 652
STX 450 (4) Cab	335	R7 196 316
STX 450 Quadtrac Cab	335	R8 727 263
STX 500 (4) Cab	373	R8 266 571
STX 500 Quadtrac Cab	373	R9 633 313
STX 550 (4) Cab	411	R8 868 582
STX 550 Quadtrac Cab	411	R10 074 268
STX 600 (4) Cab	448	R9 584 471
STX 600 Quadtrac Cab	448	R10 921 694
CHALLENGER		
MT 775 E Track	298	R5 750 000
MT 743 E Track	318	R6 325 000
MT 865 C Track	375	R6 612 500
MT 865 E Track	403	R7 331 250
MT 875 E Track	440	R8 050 000
CLAAS		
Arion 420 (4) Cab	77	R1 277 650
Arion 420 (4) FL Cab	77	R1 391 500
Arion 430 (4) T3 Cab	85	R1 378 850
Arion 430 (4) T3 FL Cab	85	R1 492 700
Arion 610 (4) Hexashift Cab	99	R2 087 250
Arion 620 (4) C Cab	103	R1 593 900
Arion 630 (4) C Cab	113	R1 714 075
Arion 630 (4) C Hexashift Cab	114	R2 304 830
Arion 640 (4) C Cab	121	R1 834 250
Arion 650 (4) Hexashift Cab	129	R2 581 865
Axion 800 (4) CIS Cab	142	R3 225 750
Axion 830 (4) CIS Cab	165	R3 719 100
Axion 830 (4) CIS Rowcrop Cab	165	R3 832 950
Axion 850 (4) CIS Cab	184	R4 022 700
Axion 850 (4) CIS Rowcrop Cab	184	R4 136 550
Axion 870 (4) CMATIC Cab	199	R4 486 955
Axion 870 (4) CMATIC Rowcrop Cab	199	R4 441 415
Axion 920 (4) T2 Cab	236	R5 646 960
Axion 930 (4) T2 Cab	259	R5 915 140
Axion 940 (4) T2 FS Cab	282	R6 163 080
Axion 950 (4) T2 FS Cab	306	R6 411 020
DEUTZ-FAHR		
3045 E	31	R207 000
Agrolux 60	38	R290 375
Agrolux 60 A	38	R338 100
Agroplus F 75 Keyline N A	53	R425 500
Agrolux 4.80	53	R326 025
Agrolux 4.80 A	53	R379 500
4085 E A	59	R552 000
Agroplus F 410 A	62	R552 000
Agroplus F 410 A Cab	62	R623 300
Agroplus F 410 A HS Cab	62	R634 800
Agrolux 90	64	R457 125
Agrolux 90 A	64	R499 100
Agrolux 100 A	69	R557 175
5110 G A G	75	R916 550
Agrofarm 115 G A	80	R681 950
Agrofarm 115 G A Cab	80	R787 175
Agrofarm 115 G A HS Cab	80	R830 875
Agrotrac 115.6 T A	84	R876 300
Agrotron M 600 A Cab	97	R1 552 500
Agrotron 6135 G A Cab	97	R1 725 000
Agrotron 6155 G A Cab	111	R1 955 000
Agrotron 180 A Cab	125	R1 944 075
Agrotron 6175 G A Cab	126	R2 185 000
Agrotron X 720 A Cab	191	R2 645 000
Agrotron 9340 A TTV Cab	232	R4 025 000
JOHN DEERE		
5039 D	29	R313 824
5045 D	33	R327 396
5045 D MFWD	33	R371 387
5050 D	37	R341 479
5050 D MFWD	37	R385 470
5055 E	41	R383 331
5055 E MFWD	41	R429 083
5065 E	49	R443 450
5065 E MFWD	49	R489 201
5075 E	56	R517 727
5075 E MFWD	56	R563 478
5075 E MFWD Cab	56	R749 210
5076 E	56	R851 124
5076 E F	56	R938 121
5076 E F MFWD	56	R1 035 246
5076 E MFWD	56	R940 980
5076 E N	56	R1 227 565
5076 E N Cab	56	R1 436 749
5076 E N MFWD	56	R1 314 184
5076 E N MFWD Cab	56	R1 523 368
5082 E	60	R942 532
5082 E Cab	60	R1 103 050
5082 E MFWD	60	R1 032 066
5082 E MFWD Cab	60	R1 192 584
5090 E	66	R962 029
5090 E Cab	66	R1 170 683
5090 E MFWD	66	R1 045 487
5090 E MFWD Cab	66	R1 254 141
5090 E MFWD HC	66	R1 427 758
5090 E MFWD HC Cab	66	R1 534 404
5090 E N	66	R1 468 114
5090 E N Cab	66	R1 677 261
5090 E N MFWD	66	R1 554 733
5090 E N MFWD Cab	66	R1 763 880
6095 B MFWD	71	R1 029 113
6095 B MFWD Cab	71	R1 164 758
6110 B MFWD	81	R1 169 850
6110 B MFWD Cab	81	R1 309 660
6110 M MFWD	81	R1 422 666
6110 M MFWD Cab	81	R2 091 806
6120 B MFWD	90	R1 233 792
6120 B MFWD Cab	90	R1 373 621

6125 M MFWD	92	R1 634 443
6125 M MFWD Cab	92	R2 309 868
6135 B MFWD	101	R1 369 702
6135 B MFWD Cab	101	R1 509 531
6140 M MFWD	103	R1 943 062
6140 M MFWD Cab	103	R2 620 417
6155 M MFWD Cab	114	R2 877 492
6175 M MFWD Cab	129	R3 333 643
6195 M MFWD Cab	143	R3 689 414
8R230 MFWD Cab	173	R5 152 076
8R250 MFWD Cab	188	R5 221 262
8R280 MFWD Cab	210	R5 828 996
8R310 MFWD Cab	233	R6 648 925
8RT310 Track Cab	233	R7 213 880
8RX310 Track Cab	233	R8 194 478
8R340 MFWD Cab	255	R7 294 726
8RT340 Track Cab	255	R8 119 689
8RX340 Track Cab	255	R9 100 306
8R370 MFWD Cab	278	R8 554 602
8RT370 Track Cab	278	R9 180 167
8RX370 Track Cab	278	R10 160 784
9R390 (4) Cab	291	R9 500 900
8R410 MFWD Cab	308	R9 031 177
8RT410 Track Cab	308	R9 656 743
8RX410 Track Cab	308	R10 686 234
9R440 (4) Cab	328	R10 522 764
9RT470 Track Cab	351	R11 460 733
9R490 (4) Cab	365	R10 570 711
9RX490 Track Cab	365	R11 719 379
9RT520 Track Cab	388	R12 461 604
9R540 (4) Cab	403	R11 230 424
9RX540 Track Cab	403	R12 246 647
9RT570 Track Cab	425	R12 470 898
9R590 (4) Cab	440	R12 270 308
9RX590 Track Cab	440	R13 723 885

KUBOTA

B 1181 DT	12	R247 693
B 1241 DT	18	R268 333
B 2261 H DT	19	R322 884
L 1361 DT	26	R364 167
L 1421 DT	32	R420 193
L 1421 H DT	32	R464 423
EK 6045	34	R287 500
L 5040 DT	37	R567 629
EK 6060	45	R324 359
EK 6060 DT	45	R383 333
M 7040 DT	53	R661 987
M 7040 N DT	53	R690 000
EK 6075	56	R353 846
EK 6075 DT	56	R412 820
EK 6075 Pro	56	R383 333
EK 6075 Pro DT	56	R442 307
M 8540 DT	64	R754 872
M 8540 N DT	64	R729 807
M 8540 N DT Cab	64	R821 218
EK 6090 Pro	66	R434 936
EK 6090 Pro DT	66	R508 654
EK 6090 X Pro DT	66	R538 141
M 9540 DT	71	R807 949
M 9540 DT Cab	71	R906 731
M 9540 DT HC Cab	71	R965 706
M 108 S DT Cab	80	R1 113 141
M 135 GX DT Cab	97	R1 459 616
M 172 DT Cab	125	R2 388 461
M 172 DT KVT Cab	125	R2 535 897

LANDINI

Solis 20 DT	13	R254 211
Solis 26 DT	17	R273 579
Solis 26 DT Turf	17	R301 421
Solis 26 DT HST	17	R305 052
Solis 26 DT HST Turf	17	R330 473
Solis 45	35	R314 737
Solis 45 DT	35	R417 632
Solis 55	44	R384 948
Solis 55 DT	44	R460 000
Solis 60 N	44	R541 105
Solis 60 N DT	44	R600 421
Solis 75	52	R464 843
Solis 75 (8x2)	52	R418 843
Solis 75 DT	52	R522 100
Solis 75 DT (8x2)	52	R474 527
Solis 75 N	52	R558 052
Solis 75 N DT	52	R648 843
Solis 75 N DT Cab	52	R749 316
Rex 80 F DT	55	R718 423
Rex 80 F DT Cab	55	R849 444
Rex 80 F DT RPS	55	R743 865
Rex 80 F DT RPS Cab	55	R874 886
Super 7865	55	R561 394
Super 7865 DT	55	R636 218
Super 8865	60	R625 982
Super 8865 DT	60	R686 643
Rex 90 F DT	61	R776 874
Rex 90 F DT Cab	61	R847 850
Rex 90 F DT RPS	61	R773 988
Rex 90 F DT RPS Cab	61	R873 292
Super 90	61	R566 817
Super 90 DT	61	R654 534
Super 90 DT Cab	61	R729 439
Powerfarm 90 DT	61	R838 629
Powerfarm 90 DT HC	61	R875 541
Powerfarm 90 DT HC Cab	61	R952 317
Solis 90	65	R474 527
Solis 90 Cab	65	R634 316
Solis 90 DT	65	R539 895
Solis 90 DT Cab	65	R710 579
Solis 90 N	65	R589 527
Solis 90 N Cab	65	R732 368
Solis 90 N DT	65	R652 473
Solis 90 N DT Cab	65	R800 157
5-100 H DT RPS	68	R839 500
5-100 H DT RPS Cab	68	R920 000
Super 100	68	R608 625
Super 100 Cab	68	R673 009
Super 100 DT	68	R690 880
Super 100 DT Cab	68	R769 342
Powerfarm 100 DT RPS	68	R1 007 078
Powerfarm 100 DT HC	68	R926 641
Powerfarm 100 DT HC Cab	68	R1 003 694
5-110 H DT RPS	75	R879 750
5-110 H DT RPS Cab	75	R979 800
Super 110 DT	75	R743 630
Super 110 DT Cab	75	R824 562
Powerfarm 110 DT RPS	75	R1 091 972
Powerfarm 110 DT HC	75	R982 222
Powerfarm 110 DT HC Cab	75	R1 063 000
Powerfarm 110 DT HC RPS Cab	75	R1 104 311
Powerfarm 120 DT RPS	81	R1 160 786
Landpower 125 MkII DT	86	R1 419 412
Landpower 125 MkII DT Cab	86	R1 615 828
Landforce 125 MkII DT RPS	88	R1 224 242
Landforce 125 MkII DT RPS Cab	88	R1 314 433
Landpower 135 MkII DT	98	R1 518 166
Landpower 135 MkII DT Cab	98	R1 700 254
Landpower 135 MkII DT Toptronic Cab	98	R1 798 969
Landpower 145 MkII DT	104	R1 686 722
Landpower 145 MkII DT Cab	104	R1 840 758
Landpower 145 MkII DT Toptronic Cab	104	R1 929 675
Landpower 165 MkII DT	116	R1 825 969
Landpower 165 MkII DT Cab	116	R1 988 928
Landpower 165 MkII DT Toptronic Cab	116	R2 078 397
7-160 DT Cab	116	R2 449 339
7-180 DT Cab	121	R2 655 355
7-200 DT Cab	133	R2 735 412
7-220 DT Cab	140	R2 853 173
7-240 DT Cab	170	R3 456 550

MASSEY FERGUSON

240 Xtra	34	R336 375
268 Xtra	45	R385 250
268 (4) Xtra	45	R437 000
2630 GE N	48	R445 625
2630 GE N (4)	48	R524 688
275 Xtra	55	R411 125
275 (4) Xtra	55	R478 688
3307 F	56	R583 625
3307 F (4)	56	R692 875
3307 F (4) Cab	56	R794 938
2640	59	R527 563
2640 (4)	59	R609 500
290 Xtra	58	R464 313
290 (4) Xtra	58	R514 625
4708 (4) (8x8)	61	R649 750
4708 (4) (12x12)	61	R667 000
4708 (4) (12x12) PS	61	R737 438
4708 (4) Cab (12x12) PS	61	R829 438
3308 F (4)	63	R737 438
3308 F (4) Cab	63	R836 625
4709 (4) (12x12) PS	69	R796 375
4709 (4) Cab (12x12)	69	R861 063
4709 (4) Cab (12x12) PS	69	R973 188
5709 (4)	69	R891 250
5709 (4) Cab	69	R1 017 750

5710 (4)	76	R925 750
5710 (4) Cab	76	R1 068 063
6711 (4)	82	R1 055 125
6711 (4) Cab	82	R1 220 438
6711 R (4) T2 Dyna 4 Cab	82	R1 536 688
6711 R (4) T3 Dyna 4 Cab	85	R1 818 438
6712 (4)	91	R1 114 063
6712 (4) Cab	91	R1 293 750
6712 R (4) T2 Dyna 4 Cab	91	R1 631 563
6712 R (4) T3 Dyna 4 Cab	93	R1 913 313
6713 (4)	98	R1 201 750
6713 (4) Cab	98	R1 367 063
6713 R (4) T3 Dyna 4 Cab	100	R2 008 188
7615 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	110	R2 167 750
7618 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	128	R2 432 250
7720 S (4) Dyna 6 Cab	146	R2 929 625
8S.205 (4) Cab	153	R3 843 875
7722 S (4) Dyna 6 Cab	158	R2 977 063
7724 S (4) Dyna 6 Cab	173	R3 329 250
8S.245 (4) Cab	183	R4 142 875
7726 S (4) Dyna 6 Cab	188	R3 552 063
8S.265 (4) Cab	197	R4 367 125
8727 S (4) Dyna-VT Cab	200	R4 295 250
8732 S (4) Dyna-VT Cab	235	R4 582 750
8737 S (4) Dyna-VT Cab	272	R5 022 625

McCORMICK

C-Max 90 (4) HC Cab	61	R952 317
B-Max 100 (4)	68	R690 880
B-Max 100 (4) Cab	68	R769 342
C-Max 100 (4) HC Cab	68	R1 003 694
C-Max 110 (4) HC	73	R982 222
C-Max 110 (4) HC Cab	73	R1 063 000
B-Max 110 (4)	75	R743 630
B-Max 110 (4) Cab	75	R824 562
G-Max 125 (4) Techno T3	86	R1 419 412
G-Max 125 (4) Techno T3 Cab	86	R1 615 828
D-Max 125 (4) RPS	88	R1 224 242
D-Max 125 (4) RPS Cab	88	R1 314 433
G-Max 135 (4) 4E T3 Cab	96	R1 798 969
G-Max 135 (4) Techno T3	96	R1 518 166
G-Max 135 (4) Techno T3 Cab	96	R1 700 254
G-Max 145 (4) 4E T3 Cab	104	R1 929 675
G-Max 145 (4) Techno T3	104	R1 686 722
G-Max 145 (4) Techno T3 Cab	104	R1 840 758
X7.650 (4) Cab	112	R2 449 339
G-Max 165 (4) 4E T3 Cab	116	R2 078 397
G-Max 165 (4) Techno T3	116	R1 825 969
G-Max 165 (4) Techno T3 Cab	116	R1 988 928
X7.660 (4) Cab	116	R2 655 355
X7.670 (4) Cab	122	R2 735 412
X7.680 (4) Cab	133	R2 853 173
X7.624 (4) Cab	170	R3 456 550
X8.680 (4) Cab	215	R5 733 602

NEW HOLLAND

TT 45	35	R274 620
TT 45 DT	35	R321 770
TD 3.50 F	36	R396 060
TD 3.50 F DT	36	R429 065
TT 3.50	37	R281 405
TT 3.50 DT	37	R332 120
TT 55 T	40	R331 545
TT 55 T DT	40	R387 320
T 4.65 V	48	R569 020
T 4.65 V DT	48	R616 400
TD 65 F	48	R497 375
TD 65 F DT	48	R554 530
TT 65 T	48	R363 400
TT 65 T DT	48	R434 125
TD 75 F	53	R529 230
TD 75 F DT	53	R584 545
TT 75 T	55	R424 810
TT 75 T DT	55	R499 790
TD 5.75 DT Cab	56	R759 575
T 4.75 N	57	R631 235
T 4.75 N Cab	57	R760 150
T 4.75 N DT	57	R681 260
T 4.75 N DT Cab	57	R851 805
TD 85 F	59	R550 275
TD 85 F DT	59	R605 360
TT 4.80	60	R522 905
TT 4.80 DT	60	R601 565
T 4.85 F Cab	65	R834 670
T 4.85 F DT Cab	65	R944 265
T 4.85 N DT Cab	65	R902 980
T 4.85 F DT LP Cab	65	R896 655
TD 90 F DT	65	R626 290
TD 5.90 DT Cab	66	R859 970
TD 5.90 DT EC Cab	66	R1 017 175
TD 90 S	66	R502 895
TD 90 S DT	66	R571 895
TT 4.90	66	R564 880
TT 4.90 DT	66	R645 380
6610	67	R612 835
6610 DT	67	R680 915
T 4.95 F DT Cab	71	R976 695
T 4.95 F DT LP Cab	71	R962 780
TD 95 S DT	72	R655 270
TD 95 DT HC Cab	72	R847 090
TD 5.100 DT	73	R832 370
TD 5.100 DT Cab	73	R926 095
TD 5.100 DT EC Cab	73	R1 077 090
T 6020 DT Delta	82	R1 086 750
T 6020 DT Delta Cab	82	R1 184 730
TD 5.110 DT	82	R856 290
TD 5.110 DT Cab	82	R950 015
TD 5.110 DT EC Cab	82	R1 108 830
TS 6.120 DT	88	R928 740
TS 6.120 DT Cab	88	R1 001 535
TS 6.120 DT HC Cab	88	R1 116 650
T 6050 DT Delta	93	R1 174 380
T 6050 DT Delta Cab	93	R1 298 350
T 6050 DT Plus Cab	93	R1 385 290
TS 6.140 DT	104	R1 112 510
TS 6.140 DT Cab	104	R1 184 040
T 6070 DT Plus Cab	104	R1 475 910
T 6080 DT RC Cab	114	R1 723 620
T 6080 DT PC Cab	114	R2 101 625
T 6090 DT RC Cab	121	R1 776 980
T 6090 DT PC Cab	121	R2 154 985
T 7040 DT PC Cab	134	R2 262 395
T 7060 DT PC Cab	157	R2 755 170
T 8.320 DT Cab	184	R3 583 285
T 8.350 DT Cab	206	R3 791 320
T 8.380 DT Cab	229	R3 996 250
T 8.410 DT Cab	250	R4 258 105
T 8.435 Smarttrax CVT Cab	279	R6 294 065
T 9.450 DT Cab	298	R5 807 845
T 9.505 DT Cab	336	R6 335 580
T 9.560 DT Cab	373	R6 728 190
T 9.615 DT Cab	399	R7 116 545
T 9.670 DT Cab	447	R7 903 720

TAFE

35 DI	25	R198 145
45 DI	33	R244 605
45 DI (4)	33	R328 153
5900 DI	44	R293 768
5900 DI (4)	44	R358 053
6015	45	R323 323
6515 (4)	48	R438 840
7502	55	R331 315
7502 (4)	55	R396 980
7515	55	R365 413
7515 (4)	55	R453 100
8502	61	R346 783
8502 (4)	61	R439 645
8515	61	R371 508
8515 (4)	61	R465 175
9515 (4)	68	R492 660
1015 (4)	74	R580 635

VALTRA

A 93 F (4)	70	R771 650
A 93 F (4) Cab	70	R924 600
A 990 (4)	73	R736 000
A 104 (4) Cab	74	R1 085 543
A 124 (4)	89	R1 085 543
A 124 (4) Cab	89	R1 205 085
A 134 (4) Cab	96	R1 279 950
A 134 (4) Hi Tech Cab	96	R1 563 713
N 135 (4) Active Cab	99	R1 739 950
BH 154 (4)	114	R1 227 050
BH 154 (4) Cab	114	R1 636 163
BH 174 (4) Cab	129	R1 777 440
BH 194 (4) Cab	139	R2 004 450
T 195 (4) Active Cab	147	R2 699 050
BH 224 (4) Cab	155	R2 299 080
T 235 (4) Active Cab	174	R2 852 000
T 235 (4) Versu Cab	174	R3 358 000
S 294 (4) Cab	217	R4 183 700
S 354 (4) Cab	258	R4 163 000
S 374 (4) Cab	272	R4 595 400
S 374 (4) Row Crop Cab	272	R4 844 950

IMMIGRATION DISPERSAL AUCTION!

MIXED FARMING WITH EXCELLENT INFRASTRUCTURE!

CATTLE/GAME & CROP FARM!

AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTS, CATTLE, GAME AND FURNITURE

DISTRICT RUSTENBURG

GAUTENG
VAN'S
Auctioneers
SINCE 1964 ®

11:00

AUCTION THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023

AUCTION AT: FARM TWEERIVIER, DISTRICT RUSTENBURG

PROPERTY 1: Remaining Extent of Portion 23 of the Farm Tweefontein 253, Rustenburg, JQ

Extent: ± 150 ha

Improvements:

- Double storey house with 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms & 4 living areas.

Farm improvements:

- Game fenced (2,2 m) & divided into camps
- 2 rivers run through the farm
- Implement shed
- Workers houses
- Cattle handling facilities
- Farm divided into various camps with wateringholes
- 34 hectares established grass lands (Lucern & teff)
- 17 hectares under irrigation
- 7 hectares old lands
- Excellent water network, 6 boreholes
- Beautiful sweet veld grass bushveld

PROPERTY 2: Portion 22 of the Farm Tweerivier 253, Rustenburg JQ (Adjacent to property 1)

Extent: ± 6 ha

Improvements:

- 2 bedroom house with 2 bathrooms 2 living areas, garages & workers quarters

Farm improvements:

- Game fenced
- 2 boreholes
- Good water infrastructure
- 5 ha planted grazing

MOVABLE ASSETS:

- JD 5224 tractor (4 x 4), Ford Ambiant 1400, Mahindra Karoo 4 x 4 Double cab, hammer mill, trailers, disc, ripper & cultivator, lucern cutter & baler, workshop equipment and much more

CATTLE & GAME:

- ± 20 Nyalas, ± 30 Impala, ± 20 kudu
- 18 Weanlings (± 180 kg each)
- 5 bush buck in small camp

ANTIQUE FURNITURE:

Beautiful antique furniture and household furniture and items. (Call us for a complete list.)

Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 2
Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 1
Lot 4
Lot 1
Lot 1 (9% Share)

WEB23/0009

S.A. INSTITUTE OF AUCTIONEERS
S.A.I.A

R50 000 refundable registration fee; Farm: 10% deposit & Buyer's commission plus VAT:
Loose assets: Full purchase price plus commission plus VAT, R1750 vehicle documentation fee.
Bidders must register and provide proof of identity and residence. Regulations of the Consumer Protection Act: www.vansauctions.co.za
Auction rules can be viewed at 36 Gemsbok Street, Koedoespoort, Pretoria. Tel 086 111 8267 | Auctioneer: Martin Pretorius

Right reserved to add, combine or remove lots.

PARK VILLAGE AUCTIONS

Trusted by banks, respected by buyers

WEB# 1140

BARNLAB (PTY) LTD (IN LIQUIDATION). Duly instructed by the **JOINT LIQUIDATORS AND KAONNE INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD** in terms of a **SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY** we will offer for sale by way of:

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

MULTIPLE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES IN VEREENIGING, VRYBURG & RIVIERSONDEREND (WITH FEED MILLS)

Barnlab

(IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES TOGETHER WITH PLANT, MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND OFFICE FURNITURE AND FACTORY CONSUMABLES)

RIVIERSONDEREND, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

PROPERTY

By Special Power of Attorney: Number 1 Van Riebeeck Avenue, Riviersonderend (ERF NUMBER 1716 RIVIERSONDEREND, DISTRICT OF THE THEEWATERSKLOOF LOCAL MUNICIPALITY– MEASURING 83.6491 HECTARES), CALEDON DISTRICT WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. Large Industrial Property, estimated GLA 4 472 Square Metres, comprising Grain Mill Warehouse, Ancillary offices, Staff Ablution facilities, Weight Bridge office, Security office, Manufacturing and Storage Warehouses, Grain Storage Silos, Workshop and Compressor Room and, duly instructed by the Joint Liquidators, together as one Lot with;

PLANT, MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT & OFFICE FURNITURE

- Intake Hooper with auger feeder, bucket elevator, Cyclone, 6 x Portioning Bins, Final Portioning Bins, Premix Bins, 1.5 Ton Ribbon Mixer
- Sprout Pellet Press, Cooler and Cyclone
- Distribution Hoppe, Bagging Feeding Hopper, Weighing and Bagging Stitching Machine
- Graveyard Debagger, Ureas Sifter and Bins
- Ward Turret Lathe, Plate Rollers, 20 Ton Press, Plate Folder, Thermamax CO^2 Welder, Belt drive Bench drill
- Molasses Pump, Primary Mill and Bucket Elevator, 140 000 Litre Molasses Tank
- 30 Ton Bulk Auger Tanker Tr-Axle Trailer
- Assorted Office Furniture & Equipment including Desks, Chairs, Tables , Filing Cabinets, Printers, Bookcases, Credenzas, Shelving, etc.

Separate from, or together with;

By instruction from the Joint Liquidators: Four (4) Vacant Stands - Muller Street, Riviersonderend being ERF NUMBER 1228 (MEASURING 1 047 Square Metres), ERF NUMBER 1229 (MEASURING 1 060 Square Metres), ERF NUMBER 1230 (MEASURING 1 060 Square Metres) and ERF NUMBER 1231 (MEASURING 1 060 Square Metres) RIVIERSONDEREND, DISTRICT OF THE THEEWATERSKLOOF LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT: 6 - 10 FEBRUARY, 2023 FROM 09:00 – 15:00

PANFONTEIN / VEREENIGING, GAUTENG PROVINCE

PROPERTY

By Special Power of Attorney: Portion 10 of the Farm Panfontein, Vischgat Road, Vereeniging (RE OF PORTION 10 OF THE FARM PANFONTEIN NO. 437, IR, DISTRICT OF THE MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,– MEASURING 83.6491 HECTARES), VEREENIGING, GAUTENG PROVINCE. Large Industrial Property, estimated GLA 9 032 Square Metres, comprising Main Office Building, Ancillary offices, Staff Ablution facilities, Canteen, Laboratory, Weight Bridge office, Security office, Manufacturing and Storage Warehouses, Grain Storage Silos, Workshop, Compressor Room, undercover Staff Parking and Two (2) Residential Dwellings and, duly instructed by the Joint Liquidators, together as one Lot with;

PLANT, MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT & OFFICE FURNITURE

- Raw Material Storage Bins with discharge auger, Bucket elevator, Hopper with Hammer Mill, Ground Product Bucket Elevator, Dump Hopper and Auger, Portioning Holding Hoppers, Portioning Loadcell Scales & mixing Hopper with feed auger, bulk loading chutes
- Pella Din 16 ES Pellet Press, Supply Bins with auger, Crumbler Hopper with Feed Auger
- Bagging Machinery, 20 Ton Bins and Bag Stitcher
- Cyclotherm 250KG Boiler
- Kaeser SK 22 Comressor
- Ford 6610 Tracto, 20 Ton Tipper Trailer, 10 Ton drawbar trailer, Manitou Telehandler
- Assorted Office Furniture & Equipment including Desks, Chairs, Tables , Filing Cabinets, Printers, Bookcases, Credenzas, Shelving, etc.

VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT: 6 - 10 FEBRUARY, 2023 FROM 09:00 – 15:00

VRYBURG, NORTH-WEST PROVINCE

PROPERTY

By Special Power of Attorney: Number 5 Industria Street (ERF 2493 AND ERF 883 VRYBURG, DISTRICT OF THE NALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH-WEST PROVINCE – TOGETHER MEASURING 2.5389 HECTARES), VRYBURG, NORTH-WEST PROVINCE. Large Industrial Property, estimated GLA 9 285 Square Metres, comprising Main Office Building, Ancillary offices, Staff Ablution facilities, Canteen, Weight Bridge office, Grain Mill warehouse and Grain Storage Silos, storage warehouses, workshop, lean-to shed undercover Staff Parking and access to a railway reserve and, duly instructed by the Joint Liquidators, together as one Lot with;

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

Assorted Office Furniture & Equipment including Desks, Chairs, Tables , Filing Cabinets, Printers, Bookcases, Credenzas, Shelving, etc.

VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT: 6 - 10 FEBRUARY, 2023 FROM 09:00 – 15:00

Offers to be submitted no later than 14h00 on Friday 17 February 2023

• TEL: 011 789 4375 - Debbie • FAX: 011 789 4369 • E-MAIL: auctions@parkvillage.co.za.

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

10% Deposit on submission of the offer and balance within 30 days of confirmation. **TERMS:** Sale Agreement as well as specifications available on our website or from **PARK VILLAGE AUCTIONS (011) 789-4375 (B). OFFERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARK VILLAGE AUCTIONS HEAD OFFICE, UNIT 10, FERNDALE MEWS NORTH, 355 OAK AVENUE, FERNDALE, RANDBURG OR E-MAILED TO auctions@parkvillage.co.za BY NO LATER THAN 14:00 ON FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2023.**

NOTE: The Joint Liquidators reserves the right not to accept the highest or any other offer.

All of the above is subject to change without prior notice.

5297

MAJESTO BEEFMASTERS

Auction

16 February 2023

11:00 , Derby Auction Pens

65 Bulls • 75 Cows
75 Heifers

Louis Coetzee	072 285 8600	Paul van Vuuren	083 658 7318	*(Auctioneer)*
Theo Coetzee	082 600 8374	Malcolm Kock	082 333 0911	
Paul v Vuuren	083 230 3595	Japie v Wyk	082 447 1897	

ANDRÉ KOCK & SEUN/SON BK
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16 FEBRUARY 2023

11H00 AT WARMBAD VEEMARK
GPS: 24° 54' 54.2"S 28° 21' 48.2"E

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BULLS 30 DAY COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

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- **30** Rooigoud Female SP
- **300** Commercial female animals
- **100** Slaughter
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UITSOEK STOET VROULIK

Carel Chalmers	082 896 9586	(Marketer)
Mike Killassy	082 378 8112	(Stud Auctioneer)
Stefan Greyling	083 379 7297	(Slaughter Stock Auctioneer)

34TH PRODUCTION AUCTION

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1. All buyers must register and provide a copy of ID and proof of residence. 2. Payment: By card / electronic transfers on day of sale - NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED AS PAYMENT FOR PURCHASES. 3. VAT is payable. 4. Vleissentraal's standard conditions of sale (Rules of Auction) apply - available at www.vleissentraal.co.za 5. Consumer Protection Act - Act 68 of 2008, available on www.gov.za. 6. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any sale item before or during the sale without prior notice.

BELA-BELA

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Registered according to Act on Agricultural produce agent Act 12 of 1992 (Act 47 of 2003), Certificate 42

VLEISSENTRAAL

TOTAL DISPERSAL SALE
Phase 2 of L.A.B. Brahmans

Friday 17 February 2023 at 11:00 at Afridome, Parys

LAB BRAHMAN STUD

ON OFFER:
40 Cows + Calves
40 Pregnant Cows & Heifers

L.A.B. Brahman Stud is owned by André Badenhorst and will hold the exclusive rights to Dutton for South Africa and all sub-Saharan countries including Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and 27 other countries.

Dutton
Offspring of Dutton on offer

Dutton is sired by the equally famous Noble, who is the #1 sire of champions in the United States at this time, as reported by The Brahman Journal. Dutton's dam, Boom Shaka Laka, is a former two-time International Grand Champion Brahman Female and former Brahman Miss World. Dutton's full sister is also the 2020 International Grand Champion Brahman Female, also bred by BRC.

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Clive Gardner Auctioneers 018 290 9610
Hendrik Nel 082 491 8289 / cga@lantic.net
Dandré Nel 076 503 7900
André Badenhorst 079 519 2630

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Online Webcast Auction. Register on whauctions.com

VIEW BY APPOINTMENT.
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Buyers Premium: 10% (exc VAT) of hammer price
Deposit: 16.5% of hammer price. **21 Day Confirmation period.**

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On Offer
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100 Ewes

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Saturday
11 FEBRUARY
2023-11:00

Pietersburg Auction Centre (Polokwane)
GPS: S 23°57'44.00" / E 029°23'35.00"
VIEWING OF ANIMALS - Friday 10 February 2023 from 2pm
Craig le Roux (auctioneer & marketer) **082 808 7747**
Johan Boshoff (Innibos Boerbokgroep) **082 377 0290**

Swift VEE

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VLEISSENTRAAL

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Farmer's Weekly offers auctioneers, producers or auction houses the opportunity to have their sales results published in *Farmer's Weekly*. These sales results include:

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- average prices achieved by animals at the sale
- photograph of the highest-priced animals

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farmer's weekly

AUCTIONS

AUCTION SALES

TO PLACE AN UPCOMING AUCTION EVENT in the Classifieds Auctions section, contact René Moonsamy on 010 971 3771 or at renea@caxton.co.za, or Natasha Kock on010 971 3770 or at natashakock@caxton.co.za.

TO LIST AUCTION RESULTS in this section, email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za.

Market Report

5 October 2022	
Beef	**Price**
Weaner calves < 200kg	R40,50/kg
Weaner calves 200kg - 250kg	R39,50/kg
Weaner calves > 250kg	R36/kg
A-class	R34,50/kg
B-class	Not available
C-class cows (fat)	R27/kg
C-class cows (thin)	Not available
Slaughter bulls	R27,50/kg
Mutton and lamb	
Feeder lambs > 30kg	R43/kg
Slaughter lambs	R41,40/kg
Feeder ewes	R38/kg
Fat ewes	R35,40/kg
Goats	
Lambs	R55,50/kg
Ewes	R47/kg

Best livestock prices: Northern Free State
For more information, phone Chris Derksen on 082 807 5961.

Konsortium-Merino's 91st and 92nd Production Sales

HIGHEST: (RAM) R50 000

Victoria West and Hofmeyr – The 91st and 92nd Konsortium-Merino Production Sales were held on the farms Dombietersfontein and Vrolikskraal on 1 and 14 September respectively.

At the 91st sale, the highest price of the day was paid for a ram, which was sold to Pikkie Uys of Wakkerstroom for R50 000. The second-highest price of the day was also paid for a ram, which was sold to Roelof Theron of Murraysburg for R45 000. Rams achieved an average price of R18 049.

This sale was held by Vleissentraal, with Jakkie Nel as the auctioneer.

At the 92nd sale, the highest price of the day was paid for a ram, which was sold to Tommie, Jakkals and Piet Roux, and Stefan du Plessis of Hofmeyr for R42 000. Rams achieved an average of R16 869.

This sale was held by OVK, also with Jakkie Nel as the auctioneer. – *Staff reporter*

ABOVE RIGHT: The highest-priced ram of the 91st Konsortium Merino Sale, which sold for R50 000, with (back, from left): Mario Kruger (Vleissentraal), Jacques Esterhuizen (Konsortium-Merino), Pikkie Uys (buyer) and Cobus Vivier (Konsortium-Merino). Front, from left: Hannes Esterhuizen (Konsortium-Merino), Vuvi Tatubane (handler) and Jakkie Nel (auctioneer).

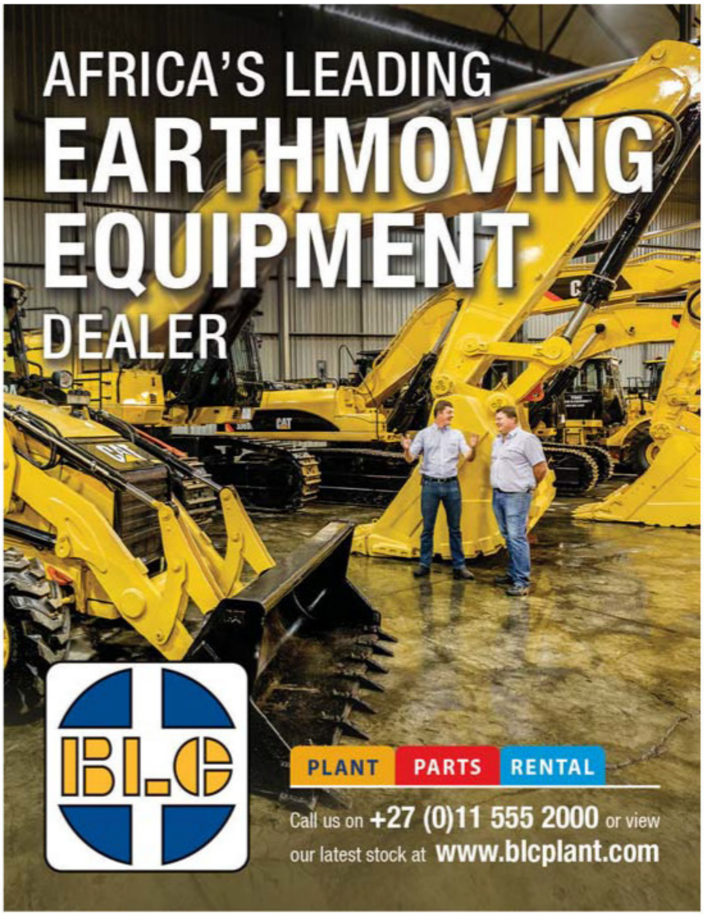
RIGHT: The highest-priced ram of the 92nd Konsortium-Merino Sale, which was sold for R42 000, with (back, from left): Jakkals, Tommie and Piet Roux (buyers) and Kobus Marais (Konsortium-Merino). Front, from left: Stefan du Plessis (buyer), Cobus Vivier (Konsortium-Merino) and Jakkie Nel (auctioneer).

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

68 farmer's weekly 21 OCTOBER 2022

111 YEARS ON THE LAND

FARMERS SHOP WINDOW



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   a) The right to withhold any advertisement from publication and to cancel such an advertising order;
   b) No liability is accepted for failure to publish, or for publication dates other than those stipulated by the advertiser, or for any typographical or any other errors of any kind, including loss or damage as a consequence of any of the above;
   c) Omissions of any scheduled insertions by the advertiser shall be considered a breach of the conditions of the order;
   d) Telephonic instructions must always be confirmed in writing.
2. Although all efforts will be made to accommodate the advertiser, acceptance of any advertisement does not guarantee insertion on any specified date or dates.
3. The proprietors reserve the right to edit or revise or reject any advertisement deemed by them to be untruthful or objectionable in subject matter or wording, or unsuitable for any reason, even after acceptance for publication.
4. The proprietors reserve the right to suspend an issue on any day and increase or decrease the usual number of editions without notice.
5. Space is sold to advertisers for the purpose of making announcements concerning their own business and may not be used for attacking or making invidious comparisons with other advertisers, firms, institutions or persons.
6. All approved accounts must be paid within 30 days after the date of insertion, or payment must be made in cash with the advertising order.
7. Advertising orders are accepted subject to editorial space being given.
8. T.C. (till cancelled) orders are guaranteed. Special positions require one month's notice.
9. Orders are accepted for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the first insertion, and should the contract amount not be reached within that period, an adjustment of the rate, according to the volume of advertising published, will be made. This also applies when the contract is cancelled prior to completion.
10. If any order of a given amount of advertising is increased during its terms to cover a large contract volume, all of which falls in the original period of 12 months, no reduction in rates shall be rebated for the advertising that has already appeared.
    The lower rate shall apply to advertising appearing after the date of increase.
11. On the announcement of new tariff rates, contract advertisers will be protected at their contract rates for 45 days after the effective date of the new rate, or until expiry of the contract, whichever is earlier. The balance of the order will be subject to the new rate.
12. Acceptance of copy:
    a) If the material is received too late for publication, the space reserved may be charged for.
    b) The right is reserved to refuse material or copy considered objectionable or unsuitable.
13. If proofs are required, copy must be in the printer's hands at least three working days before publication deadline.
14. No cancellations will be accepted after the booking deadline.

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1. All prices include VAT.
2. Only recognised abbreviations will be accepted.
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4. *Farmer's Weekly* accepts no responsibility for quality of goods or services, or for any loss or damage incurred due to incorrect advertisements. It will, however, reprint advertisements free of charge if it is deemed responsible for incorrect copy.
5. *Farmer's Weekly* reserves the right to refuse the placement of an advertisement.
6. Errors and omissions must be reported within the first week of insertion; a reference number must be quoted in all correspondence.
7. Credit applications will be authorised at the discretion of *Farmer's Weekly*, and accounts are strictly 30 days.
8. Non-account holders are required to pay cash up front. Credit will not be given for typographical errors that do not lessen th effectiveness of the advert.
9. Response to the advert is not guaranteed.
10. Advertising agencies do not qualify for any discounts for Classifieds Advertising

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Full Page	240mm x 190mm	R11 000
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1/2 Vertical	240mm x 93mm	R5 900
1/3 page	80mm x 190mm	R3 650
1/4 vertical	120mm x 93mm	R2 750
1/4 horizontal	60mm x 190mm	R2 750

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Full Page	240mm x 190mm	R17 900
3/4 Page	180mm x 190mm	R15 500
2/3 Page	160mm x 190mm	R15 000
1/2 Horizontal	120mm x 190mm	R13 400
1/2 Vertical	240mm x 93mm	R13 400
1/3 page	80mm x 190mm	R12 800
1/4 Vertical	120mm x 93mm	R7 900
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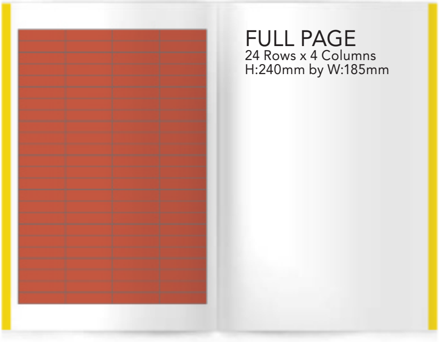
All auctions are automatically get listed on www.farmersweekly.co.za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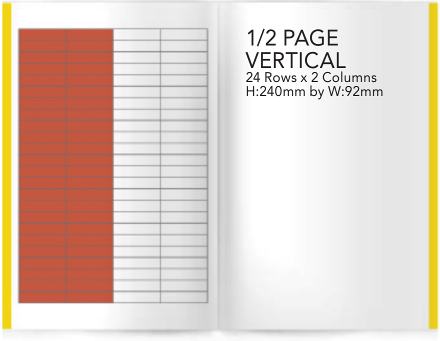
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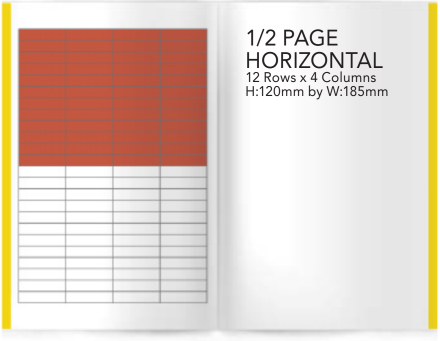
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HORIZONTAL
12 Rows x 4 Columns
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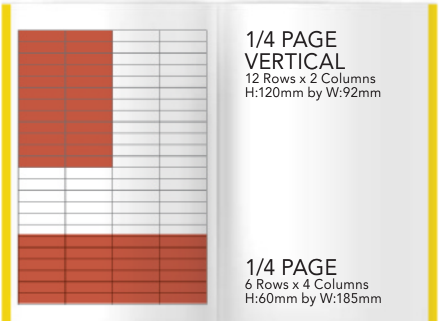
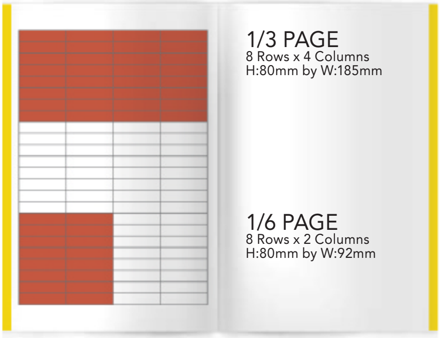

1/4 PAGE
VERTICAL
12 Rows x 2 Columns
H:120mm by W:92mm
1/4 PAGE
6 Rows x 4 Columns
H:60mm by W:185mm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H:80mm by W:185mm
1/6 PAGE
8 Rows x 2 Columns
H:80mm by W:92mm

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—————————— ORDERNO

Cost from: R340,00*

Per additional line: R33,00*

New rates are effective from 1 December 2022.

STYLE B

Seven lines of plain text and framed

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—————————— ORDERNO

Cost from: R530,00*

Per additional line: R34,00*

*This is only an estimate. Please speak to your sales consultant for an accurate rate based on the wording of your ad.

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WEBINARS

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Engagement is one of the key focus areas for all companies, and traditional in-person seminars and farmers' days are known for their ability to engage the audience with not only the topic being discussed, but also the brands that deliver the service or technology that relates to the seminar topic. The world of events has changed since COVID-19 and it has opened the door for online conferences which offers many benefits!

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Each webinar is between 60 minutes and 90 minutes long, and offers you, as a sponsor, the chance to ask a team of experts questions on various subjects, allowing you to become a thought leader on the topic in question. The webinars will be hosted by *Farmer's Weekly* editor Janine Ryan.

Hosted on

zoom

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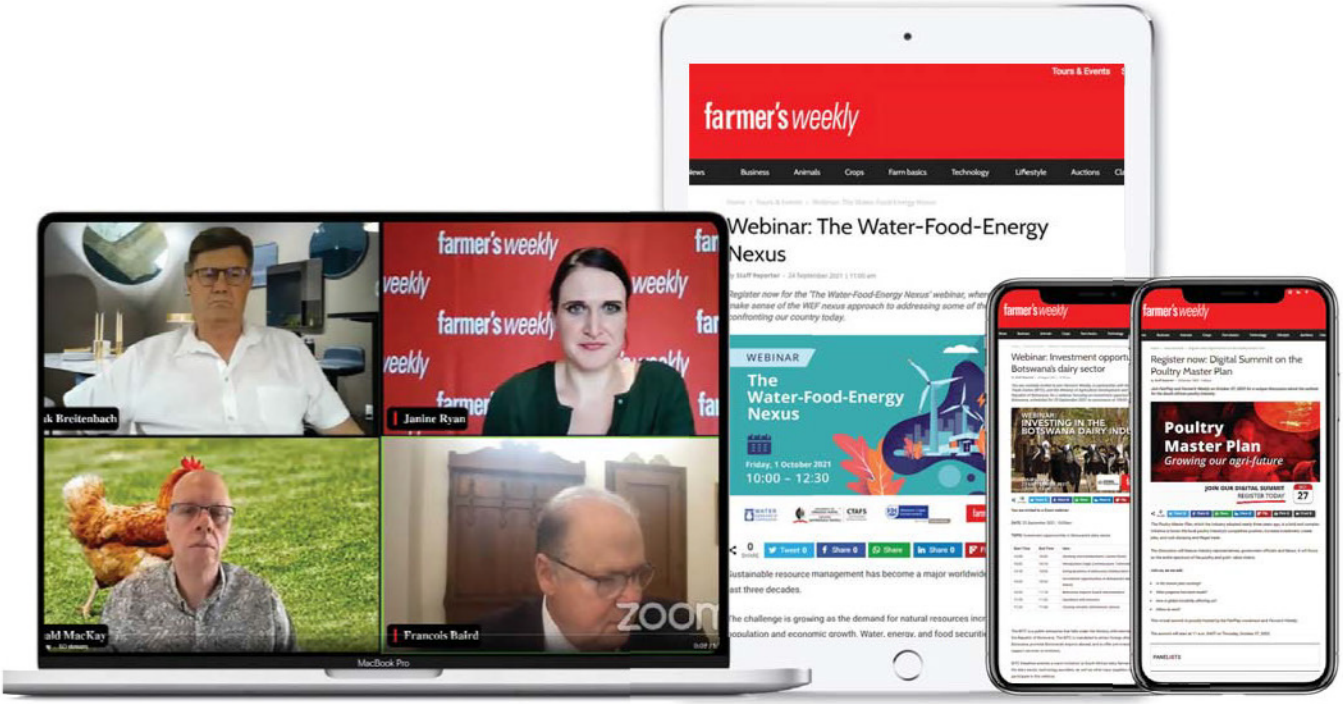
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Friday, 1 October 2021
10:00 – 12:30
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zoom
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WEBINARS

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PRE-EVENT EXPOSURE

- Newsletter banner to promote the webinar. Webinar sponsor to receive branding on the newsletter banner.
- The sponsor will be tagged in social media posts that promote the webinar (two tweets & two Facebook posts)
- The sponsor will receive branding on the webinar digitorial.
- Web banners linked to the digitorial will be placed on www.farmersweekly.co.za
- Webinar will be promoted on LinkedIn.

WEBINAR PACKAGE:

- A sponsor representative will be on the panel during the sponsored webinar.
- *Farmer's Weekly* editor Janine Ryan will moderate the webinar.
- *Farmer's Weekly* will handle the registration of attendees.
- *Farmer's Weekly* will host the webinar on Zoom.
- *Farmer's Weekly* will develop the programme for the day, with the assistance of the sponsor.
- The webinar will be simulcast on YouTube.
- A recording of the webinar will be made available to the sponsor for use on their platforms.
- Two tweets will be posted during the webinar.

POST-EVENT EXPOSURE

- A summary of the key points from the event will be published after the webinar in the form of a digitorial.
- The recorded webinar will be hosted on the *Farmer's Weekly* YouTube.
- One social media post will promote the post-event digitorial.

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0900
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2700
CATTLE

2716
BOVELDER

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The Trusted Home of Agriculture
Die Betroubare Tuiste van Landbou

MEMEL: 525 Selected Bovelders will be on offer for sale during the 13th production sale of Maritz Bovelders & Boshoek Bovelders on Thursday, 09 February 2023 at 11:00 at Eksteen, Memel.

OFFER: 200 cows with calves (mostly 3 in 1),
50 heifers (in calf) & **75** heifers (open).
For more information visit www.bkb.co.za

ENQUIRIES:
Deon Stegmann 079 878 2109
Jan Mostert (afslaer) 083 306 8408
Dr At Viljoen 082 440 7823
OWNERS: **Jaco Maritz** 082 853 7941
Paul van Niekerk 082 577 6556
Charl Theron 072 670 7431

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The Trusted Home of Agriculture
Die Betroubare Tuiste van Landbou

MEMEL: 320 COMMERCIAL SAMM EWES (in lamb - singles & twins; 2 tooth – full mouth; synchronised; to lamb in March and May) will be on offer for sale during the 13th production sale of Maritz Bovelders & Boshoek Bovelders on Thursday, 09 February 2023 at 11:00 at Eksteen, Memel.

2716 RM7359 311.8
110.00 x 1 RM007358

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ENQUIRIES:
Deon Stegmann 079 878 2109
Jan Mostert (auctioneer)
083 306 8408
Pieter Nel 076 078 9849
(sheep - & wool advisor)
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3820
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farmersweekly.co.za AUCTION AD RATES 2023

farmer's weekly
FARM ON AUCTION IN THE VIRGINIA DISTRICT
TUES 23 AUGUST 2022 AT 11H00

ELEMENT	SPECIFICATIONS	COST
WEBSITE		
Digital auction listing	600 words & 1 image (W:645pixels by H:400pixels)	R3 500
BANNER		
Banner package (70 000 impressions)	Leader banner (W:728pixels by H:90pixels) (W:970pixels by H:90pixels) MPU (W:250pixels by H:250pixels) (W:200pixels by H:200pixels) (W:336pixels by H:280pixels) (W:300pixels by H:250pixels) 1/2 page (W:120pixels by H:600pixels) (W:160pixels by H:600pixels) (W:300pixels by H:600pixels) Mobile banner (W:300pixels by H:50pixels) (W:300pixels by H:100pixels) (W:320pixels by H:50pixels) (W:320pixels by H:100pixels)	R7 000
Sectional takeover (one week)	Roadblock-style banners of the auction section	R5 000
NEWSLETTER		
Newsletter banner (every Tuesday)	Leader banner (W:728pixels by H:90pixels) (no GIFs)	R1 500
SOCIAL MEDIA		
Facebook	Standard post: (W:1200pixels by H:627pixels)	R2 500
*See specification recuerements	Share	R2 000
Twitter	Standard tweet (W:1200pixels by H:675pixels)	R1 000

ONLINE AUCTION PACKAGE
Auction listing
Newsletter banner
2 Tweets
1 Facebook post
Facebook adspend (R500)
R8 000 (Save R2 000)

Unique visitors	Pageviews	Newsletter
250 379	479 408	14 562

CONTACT OUR SALES TEAM

NATASHA KOCK
Tel: 010 971 3770,
natashakock@caxton.co.za

RENÉ MOONSAMY
Tel: 010 971 3771,
renea@caxton.co.za

Ask Our Vet

Pros and cons of kikuyu grazing

Dear Prof McCrindle,

Driving through dairy farmland in the Eastern Cape recently, I noticed that some of the pastures appear to be planted to kikuyu. Could you please write a column on how choices of different grasses and grazing regimes are used within intensive dairy farming settings and how these can influence production?

Kind regards,
ESG, Eastern Cape

Dear ESG,

*Kikuyu grass (*Cenchrus clandestinus*) is so named because it is endemic to the area of Kenya occupied by the Kikuyu people and grazed by their livestock. It is used as a dryland or irrigated pasture for semi-intensive dairy systems in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western and Eastern Cape.*

Kikuyu offers many advantages: it is fairly productive during the rainy season, responds well to irrigation, is affordable and easily managed, and is suitable for Jersey, Nguni or dual-purpose breeds.

However, it is unsuitable for intensive dairy production, as it is high in oxalates, which bind calcium, and low in energy and roughage. Calcium and energy are essential for intensive dairy production, where the calcium-to-phosphate ratio should ideally be 2:1, whereas for beef cattle it should be 1,2:1.

Kikuyu also tends to be low in sodium, potassium and magnesium, while consuming rapidly growing kikuyu can cause subacute ruminal acidosis.

Cows grazing kikuyu require salt and mineral licks to supplement calcium, magnesium, phosphates and sodium, as well as a protein source. These deficiencies can also be remedied if the animals are supplemented during milking with a complete dairy ration.

*Research has shown that over-sowing kikuyu pastures with perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and white clover (*T. repens*) gives a better milk yield. Perennial ryegrass adds an energy source and roughage, while the clover increases protein. Judicious irrigation in the dry season as well as nitrogen application will also boost yield. Be warned, though: this mixed pasture requires far more maintenance and the improvement in ℓ/ha may not be economically sustainable.*

At one stage, a milk output of 10ℓ/day was the norm for dairy cows, and many farmers used kikuyu pastures supplemented with clover and ryegrass, especially for maintaining dry cows. Today, intensive dairy producers expect to get about 60kg/day from a large-framed Holstein, which is used for three milking cycles and then sent for slaughter.

A cow cannot produce this volume by munching grass on a soggy pasture; it needs to be fed a total mixed ration with optimal ratios of proteins, carbohydrates and minerals.

Today's intensive dairy production systems are managed by sensors and software that constantly measure and adjust daily feed intake against milk production.

Kind regards,
Prof Cheryl McCrindle

Reference: *Viljoen C* et al. *2020. 'Benefits are limited with high nitrogen fertiliser rates in kikuyu-ryegrass pasture systems'. MDPI, Land 2, 9(6), 173. Retrieved from bit.ly/3luKIqr.* **FW**

Cheryl McCrindle is an emeritus full professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria, and has extensive experience in animal health. Email her at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Ask our vet.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

		5		9			3	
				7			9	
					3			6
		8		4		5		
		3			9		2	
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					6		7	3
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			9					

DIFFICULT

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			2					
2			5	1		6		
8		7				3		

24 FEBRUARY

4	6	1	**7**	8	**2**	5	9	3
7	8	3	**1**	**9**	5	2	4	6
2	**5**	9	6	3	4	7	**8**	**1**
5	9	**4**	**8**	1	7	3	**6**	2
6	**1**	**7**	**9**	2	3	**4**	5	8
3	2	8	5	4	**6**	9	1	7
9	**3**	6	2	5	1	8	7	4
8	7	2	**4**	6	9	1	**3**	5
1	**4**	5	3	7	**8**	**6**	**2**	9

MEDIUM

5	3	4	**9**	7	**6**	1	2	8
9	6	2	4	8	**1**	5	**7**	3
7	1	8	5	3	2	6	**9**	**4**
8	9	6	**2**	**4**	5	**7**	3	1
1	**4**	3	6	9	7	**2**	8	5
2	**7**	**5**	8	**1**	3	9	4	**6**
6	8	7	1	2	4	3	**5**	9
3	5	9	7	6	8	4	1	**2**
4	2	1	**3**	**5**	**9**	8	6	7

DIFFICULT

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that each row and column, as well as each of the 3 x 3 squares, contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Look out for the answers to this week's Sudoku puzzles in next week's magazine.

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